



When I returned home from the NAI National Conference in Cleveland this fall, I heard the inevitable question from supervisors and colleagues – what were your big take-aways from the experience? While part of me wished that I had a series of actionable bullet points laid out to share, the truth was that my take-aways were varied and personal. I reconnected with friends and former colleagues, and I was inspired by their work. I formed new connections with other interpreters in the region and met fellow interpreters who are tackling the always changing, wiggly beast that is digital interpretation. I came away with actionable ideas, of course, but perhaps more importantly, I came away with new questions to ask myself: How can being trauma informed make my work more accessible? How can we honestly and authentically include more voices in the stories that we tell? How can I work together with colleagues outside of my organization to tackle big issues? How can I continue connecting people to the natural world in ways that are relevant to them, through things like pop culture, games, art, or food? Through discussions at the sessions and around the lunch table, and even through meaningful chats in the corridor, I feel encouraged to find and share my voice in the conversation.

I appreciate the generosity of Region 4 folks that allowed me to attend this conference. It was a special experience for me. I'm so very grateful and hope to meet more of you in the future!

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