
Looking Forward: Libraries Activating Workforce Development

Skills Project Update



Panelist Introductions

- Jon Menz, Workforce Development Board of West Central Wisconsin
- Tasha Jenkins, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
- Laurie Freund, Bridges Library System
- Steve Hesper, Milwaukee County Federated Library System

Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills (LAWDS) Project

- The LAWDS Project brings together public library staff with the staff of local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) and Wisconsin's American Job Centers, to facilitate more seamless support of job-seeking patrons, business owners and entrepreneurs.
- IMLS Funded Project (2018-2022)

Partnerships are Key

Project Partners:

- All Wisconsin public libraries
- System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW)
- WWDA (Wisconsin Workforce Development Association)
- DWD (Department of Workforce Development)
- WLA (Wisconsin Library Association)
- DPI (Department of Public Instruction)
- UW-System
- Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)
- Great Lakes Education and Training Association (GLETA)



Project Aims

1. Create Library Mentor Network (LMN) to help foster lasting relationships between libraries and workforce development
2. Develop and deliver four training modules to libraries covering the basics of workforce development*
3. Make training and resources available to libraries after the project period

For Workforce Development Panelists

Can you briefly describe how your organizations fit within the state's workforce development system?

For Library System Panelists

What role or services do you believe libraries can have in workforce development?

For Workforce Development Panelists

While working with the library community, did anything surprise you?

For Library System Panelists

While working with the workforce development community, did anything surprise you?

For All Panelists

What parts of the project are you most pleased with – or felt went really well?

For Any Panelists

What are some of the challenges you experienced in organizing and/or implementing the LAWDS Project?

For Any Library System Panelists

Do you have any advice for libraries to make connections with the workforce development community?

For Any Workforce Development Panelists

Do you have any advice/suggestions for identifying or meeting the needs of job seekers?

For All Panelists

What do you envision for future collaborations between libraries and workforce development?

Future Activities

- New LAWDS Webpage to house training materials and connections to workforce development partners
- Marketing kit for promoting job services at your library

Questions?
