

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Partnerships Update – Information Item

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As connections continue to be made, there is a growing interest in a variety of agencies and organizations in working with Idaho libraries. Here is an overview of the past six months.

**Community Conversations:** Initially, working with libraries in the Treasure Valley, there have been four community conversations hosted by public libraries. These meetings connect workforce development resources with community stakeholders. Kuna Library District has continued this process by bringing together community stakeholders and resources to identify assets and seek solutions to challenges such as transportation at monthly meetings. I am looking at getting libraries involved with their regional community conversations supported by other organizations and other established similar activities.

**Community Connections:** I continue to connect with a wide range of representatives from the following areas: Corrections, Small Business Administration, Adult Education, United Way, BSU Multidisciplinary Studies, Junior Achievement, and STEM Action Centers. Each of these entities are interested and excited about the possibilities of working with local public and school libraries.

In March, I presented at the Magic Valley WIOA (Workforce Investment Opportunity Act) Quarterly Partner meeting and invited area libraries to attend. Both the WIOA partners and libraries learned much from each other.

I am working with local Treasure Valley libraries to collaborate on prison outreach. The focus is connecting individuals on the Reentry and Community Transition pathway with resources to gain employment and provide literacy resources for their families. Along with Ada Community Library, ICfL will be hosting an information table at the Corrections Spring Fair which is designed to provide corrections staff and offender families with information about community resources.

**Strengthening the Talent Pipeline:** Partnering with 4 other states (Nevada, Washington, Maine, New Jersey), a workshop entitled Libraries Strengthening the Talent Pipeline was created and presented at the Public Library Association meeting in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to weather and flight cancellations. However, I heard great reports that the presentation was well received and there was much gratitude from public library staff that there are activities and resources focusing on this topic.

**Workforce Development Survey:** This Survey was sent to Idaho public libraries in January, netting 27 responses. The results provided interesting observations, and depending on your perspective, the glass is either half full, or half empty. From the half-full perspective, there is a

strong knowledge about the resources LiLI offers regarding workforce development. On an average over 65% responded positively about their knowledge of availability of e-books, English literacy skills, planning for educational expenses, and job search skills. 100% of the respondents indicated they have computers with internet connection and WiFi services in the library. From the half-empty perspective, there is a need for support and training of library staff in providing programs, information, or classes related to workforce development. Workforce development is not a specific goal or strategy in most libraries' formal strategic plan. While a growing number of library staff understand the role of libraries in strengthening the talent pipeline, there is still room for education in this area (moving from a focus on collections to services).

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