**Building a Culture of Learning with Library Boards - Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/culture-of-learning-library-boards.html>

**Event Description:** Libraries that cultivate a culture of learning encourage their staff to participate in continuing education. But shouldn't this learning culture also extend to library boards? At the State Library of Iowa, we say yes! Trustees can and should play a key role in fostering a culture of learning at their libraries—beginning with themselves. When library boards embrace a learning culture, they become more receptive to supporting continuing education, in policy, planning, and budgeting. This webinar presents ideas for growing board learning into a blossoming culture that motivates board members to see education and training as a natural part of their trusteeship.

**Presented by:** **Bonnie McKewon** bonnie.mckewon@iowa.gov**, Consultant / Trainer, State Library of Iowa**

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |   |
| **Team Goals** |   |

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| **Activity 1** |
| As you think of yourself, as well as the current roster of trustees, consider these questions and how you could determine the answers:* What strengths—including tech skills—do you and/or others bring to the board table?
* What tech skills or knowledge could you and/or others further develop?
* What do you / they want to learn more about?
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| **Activity 2** |
| Have board members answer these bullet point questions individually. Then summarize everyone’s answers in the storytelling space below.* My aspirations for our library board’s ongoing education program are:
* I believe the challenges we face in reaching these aspirations are:
* I believe the changes our board needs to make in order to reach our aspirations are:

Once these three questions have been answered individually and responses recorded for the group, summarize everyone’s thoughts by telling a story. Example:**We began by sharing our aspirations for ongoing board education / board development, where we envision** (note aspirations here) **But we face** (note challenges here) **So, if we want to achieve our aspirations, we need to change** (note needed changes here)  |
| **Activity 3** |
| Bonnie offered a number of ways to create a culture of lifelong learning for the library board. Which of these ideas would you most like to pursue in the short-term? (*indicate with “S”*) Which of these in the long term? (*indicate with “L”*) Then share your list with the entire board. **Reminder:*** Communicate the expectation for board education when recruiting to fill board vacancies
* Confirm the expectation for board education in the board’s bylaws
* Include “board education report” on meeting agendas or provide bite-sized learning during board meetings (e.g. watch a segment of a webinar and discuss).
* Decide on trustee topics, webinars, website demonstrations, etc. of most interest—and blend them into monthly meetings
* Include board development as goals / objectives in the library’s long-range plan
* Plan a countywide board education event each year

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| **Activity 4** |
| Review some of the resources for learning with your trustees and consider ways to share that learning with each other. * Your State Library
* Your Regional Library System
* [American Library Association](http://www.ala.org/)
* [Public Library Association](http://www.ala.org/pla/)
* [United for Libraries](http://www.ala.org/united/)
* [WebJunction](https://www.webjunction.org/)
	+ [Topic Areas](https://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics.html) (including resources, news and webinars)
	+ [Course Catalog](https://learn.webjunction.org/) (with free courses and webinar recordings)
	+ [Free upcoming webinars](https://www.webjunction.org/find-training/free-events.html) from multiple providers (collected by the Wyoming State Library)
	+ Approaches for online learning with others
		- [Best Practices for Cohorts Attending Online Events](http://www.webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/Best_Practices_for_Cohorts_attending_Online_Events.html)
		- [Online Event Viewing Party Guide](http://www.webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/Online_Conference_Viewing_Party_Guide.html)
		- [Learning Together: Penfield Public Library Team and WebJunction Webinars](http://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/learning-together-penfield-webinars.html)
	+ This webinar provides a good overview of all the different ways to experience learning at WebJunction and to help you meet your learning goals: [The WebJunction Experience: Find Your Learning Flow](https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/the-webjunction-experience.html)
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| **Action Plan:** (include next steps, who, when, etc.) |
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