

Helping Iowa Libraries
Help Job Seekers

State Library of Iowa

Projects

- Partnership with Iowa Workforce Development
- “Recession Relief”
- Plans for the Future

Partnership with Iowa Workforce Development

- State agency serving workers, employers and communities.
- **Employees** – Skill development; information on current job openings; testing services; unemployment insurance benefits
- **Employers** - Information on Iowa's labor market; consulting on employment regulations; employee training opportunities; skills assessment

IWD Partnership

- Early 2009 - discussed potential partnership between State Library and IWD
- Rolled out in Fall 2009
- Kickoff was a program for libraries and IWD regional managers presented by IWD director, State Librarian, two public librarians

IWD Partnership

- Provided two webinars for Iowa libraries on navigating the IWD Web site; coordinated by State Library and taught by IWD staff
- Letters of Commitment between IWD and the State Library; between IWD and 80 + individual public libraries

Letters of Commitment

- **IWD:** Regional offices make contact with libraries; provide electronic resources such as *Resource Guide for Job Seekers*, tip sheets, Microsoft Digital Literacy
- **State Library:** Encourage libraries to develop relationship with IWD office; distribute electronic resources; host training
- **Local Library:** Inform IWD about what they can offer; learn more about IWD; direct job seekers to IWD

IWD Resources

- Hard copies of *Resource Guide for Job Seekers*
- Tip sheets such as Telephone Voice Mail and E-mail Tips for Job Seekers; Eye Contact; 10 Reasons Your Job Search Isn't Working
- Microsoft's Elevate America - education and training on using the Internet, sending e-mail, becoming proficient in MS Word and Excel.

Challenges

- IWD declined to share in the costs of statewide license to Learning Express
- IWD staff members are understandably overwhelmed by the demand for their services; when we ask for resources related to the partnership, their response time is frustratingly slow

What We're Seeing

- Job seeking classes held in public libraries, taught by IWD staff
- IWD staff planning “office” time in public libraries to connect with job seekers
- Special displays on job seeking resources
- Libraries adding IWD and related links to their Web sites

Recession Relief

- Webinar presented by Justine Shaffner, BCR
- Focused on libraries meeting information needs triggered by the poor economy
- Examples – what do you do with your 401k if you're laid off; handling foreclosure and credit; connecting with human services agencies; importance of the library as a source for cheap / free entertainment

Plans for the Future

- Ask IWD again for help with purchasing Learning Express; if no, re-allocate funds to purchase it
- Provide more training for library staff
- Work with IWD to put Iowa Career Access Point (ICAP) Centers in public libraries

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