

Wyoming Library Leadership Institute

The Wyoming Library Leadership Institute (WLLI) began in 2000 because of a recognized need to cultivate leaders within the Wyoming library community. The program was developed to promote personal and professional growth and to provide opportunities for learning, mentoring, networking, and developing leadership skills of library employees at all levels across our state.

You are a leader!

Really. You may not be your library's director, a department manager, or even supervise anyone. Still, you are a leader. WLLI is your opportunity to learn about your personal leadership potential and how to lead from where you are.

The institute is a tool for nurturing both degreed and non-degreed individuals in leadership roles. It is not a workshop on becoming a library director or a workshop on library administration.

Individuals associated with all types of libraries (academic, public, school and special) are invited to apply. Trustees, support staff, paraprofessionals, library media specialists and librarians are eligible (trustees must have at least one year remaining in the term of his or her appointment at the time the institute is held). Your leadership role in the Wyoming library community is not based on job title.

Your Trainers

WLLI employs high quality trainers. In past years we have had trainers from the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), Jep Enck of Enck Resources (Ft. Collins, CO), M. White Consulting (Lander, WY), Kanengieter Consulting Group (Lander, WY). They all brought expertise and approachability in an extremely fun learning environment.

Workshop Objectives

During the Wyoming Library Leadership Institute you will:

- Complete a personality inventory to help you capitalize on your behavioral strengths
- Examine your communication style and develop your communication skills
- Identify and strengthen your leadership skills (yes, you have them)
- Learn techniques to develop relationships necessary for team building
- Discover your decision-making style
- Explore your conflict management style and practice resolution methods

When?

There are two institutes. One for new attendees and one for WLLI graduates.

Even-year summers WLLI is held for new attendees. This institute is intense and empowering.

An advanced leadership institute is held during odd years. This institute is open to anyone who has attended in the past and wants to brush up on their skills and meet up with colleagues from across the state.

Apply!

The application process for new attendees is competitive. Twelve to 15 applicants will be selected to attend WLLI. The expectation of those attending is that they will step up in their library community, take future committee and leadership responsibilities in the Wyoming Library Association (WLA), WYLD Network, educational committees and other library initiatives.

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WLLI

everyone a leader • everyone a learner

"WLLI was the opportunity "of a lifetime" for me as a school librarian. The training was self-reflective, meaningful and helped me develop my skills and strengths. I have become more involved in the shared leadership at my school, in the school library section of WLA and even at Dept of Education. I recommend it to all....."

Lori Clark-Erickson, Jackson Hole High School

"WLLI was not about learning some rote list of leadership skills. I learned about myself and where I fit in library-world. I learned about leading from wherever I am, using my own strengths and peculiar set of skills. We do great things in libraries, and WLLI gave me the tools to do more."

Susan Mark, Wyoming State Library

"I can't express how much the WLLI meant to me. I was up for a promotion at work that ended up changing the entire course of my life, and WLLI was one of the main reasons I was offered the position. I see fellow graduates at statewide trainings now, and we are always quick to give a hug and reminisce about the wonderful experience we had at WLLI."

Maggie Sullivan, Powell Branch Library

"I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to attend WLLI with such outstanding librarians throughout the state of Wyoming. It has been interesting to see our class step up to the challenge and further our education, our involvement with WLA and our involvement within our local communities. After WLLI, I volunteered to chair the Indian Paintbrush Book Award Committee and have just accepted a second three year term as chair. Mary Wegher and Michelle Kallas both are graciously serving on the Indian Paintbrush Committee with me. The networking opportunities and friendships cemented at WLLI are priceless."

Sharon Porter, Wright Branch Library

"The WLLI helped me to understand that "leadership" goes beyond one's title; it is a state of mind that everyone in library work should assume in their sphere of influence, not just those in traditional management roles. We can all lead in some endeavor, and the goal of this institute is to help individuals understand how to become more effective leaders, not just within the larger scope of the Wyoming Library Association, but within our smaller organizations. This training has helped me immensely in my daily work as a school library media specialist."

Ron Chesmore, Saint Stephens Indian School

"There were lots of ideas and ways to get us going. I am now much more visible and more vocal. I only wish I'd had it years ago."

Valerie Roady, Big Horn County School District

"The first Library Leadership Institute was a benchmark for me personally and professionally. The foundation for building my own leadership skills was laid. I will be forever grateful for the encouragement and confidence the institute has inspired."

Cynthia Twing, Johnson County Library

"It was a great chance to gather with peers and to realize we all share common leadership challenges. It was also nice to have the variety of libraries and levels of leadership represented at the institute."

Marci Mock, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library

"Apart from the training, one of the great things is the opportunity to network and get to know people from other libraries. It will help us share ideas."

Dale Collum, Uinta County Library

"Attending the WLLI training was a positive experience for me because: 1. The personality test helped me understand my own personality with the strengths and weaknesses that may help or hinder my role as an effective team member. 2. Studying other personality types helped me better understand and empathize with my co-workers and appreciate what they have to offer to the team. 3. The ladder balancing exercise showed me that it takes the cooperation of every member of a team in order to achieve the team's goals. This helped me understand that if I am sensing a bad attitude on my part; I must be conscious of this and make a determined effort to change. 4. The conflict resolution workshop was helpful in that it taught me how to state my needs and ideas without being intimidated or intimidating. 5. I have taken a more active role in the Wyoming Library Association by serving on the Paraprofessional's Section as secretary, chair elect, chair and secretary again this year. I am also currently serving on the Crossroads Taskforce committee. 6. I met many wonderful new Wyoming library community friends and have enjoyed speaking with them at subsequent meetings and conferences. 7. I think that the WLLI training has had a positive impact on me and feel that it is unfortunate that I hadn't attended something like this at a much younger age!"

Mary Gillis, Campbell County Public Library

Questions?

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