

Going Beyond Books: Libraries and Innovative Programming for the Workforce

Many libraries nationwide have started to create programming and resources to assist individuals in job search and entering the job market. These programs range from digital literacy courses and online learning assistance to funded training programs that help individuals smoothly re-enter the job market.

Pierce County Public Library (WA) provides a six week training course on computer skills and basic web development. They also organized a "50+ Expo" designed to provide mid-life career changers and job seekers an opportunity to assess and develop skills and learn how to better navigate the job market.

Cedar Rapids Public Library (IA) encourages library patrons to start businesses by offering a small microloan program to budding entrepreneurs.

Cuyahoga Public Library (OH) partners with business councils, entrepreneur networks, and government agencies to offer a series on starting a business

Bridgeport Public Library (CT) offers a 5-week preparatory program to address the skills deficiency caused by long term unemployment, & pays the salary of those completing the program and entering open positions for the first eight weeks.

Mid-Continent Public Library (MO) partners with the University of Missouri to deliver a business start-up series taking place over five weeks

Queens Library (NY) offers computer skills training and basic digital literacy certification via an online platform

The Brooklyn Public Library (NY) employs a private sector expert network model to incentivize skilled individuals to mentor job seekers

El Paso Library's (TX) Virtual Village resource provides free computer training designed to expand marketable job skills.

The St. Louis Public Library (MO) offers a "Small Business Lecture Series" every month targeting jobless patrons.

Greensboro Public Library (NC) uses funding from the Workforce Investment Act to pay salaries for internships upon completion of a six-workshop training program.

Tulsa City-County Library (OK) provides hands-on lessons to entrepreneurs taught by local experts

The Tampa-Hillsborough Library (FL) uses an online platform to connect mentors, coaches, and founders to job seekers.

The Alberta Public Library (AK) partners with the government to deliver a two-day "How to Start Your Own Small Business" workshop for patrons hoping to become self-employed.

