Welcome LDI Students!

Three years ago the Wisconsin Library Association [WLA] embarked on a mission to build a new generation of library professionals. Feedback from surveys and conversations with our members indicated a need for the association to help provide a critical resource. What we learned is that today’s library directors need advanced-level organizational leadership skills. This realization began a three year journey to create a program that would provide participants with real world learning experiences and give them the skills to navigate through times of uncertainty, rapid changing technology and shrinking resources. Our solution was the creation of the Leadership Development Institute [LDI].

LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

The first stage in the creation of LDI was the establishment of several leadership competencies that best represented our most successful library leaders. From that list 1) Communication, 2) Collaboration / Relationship Building, 3) Critical Decision Making, 4) Change Management and 5) Strategic Planning were determined to be the focus for our first executive training program.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN ELEMENTS

From the wide array of educational tools available, we selected the following instructional design elements to immerse students into a rich and fulfilling experience.

- Classroom Instruction
- Peer Interaction & Reflection
- Case Study Review
- Panel of Practitioners

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Students complete a StrengthsFinder talent assessment prior to attending the program. The purpose is to expose each student to one of the many assessment tools available to help identify work styles and talents.

Upon arrival, students are divided into work groups. Groups will remain intact throughout the 2 ½ day event.

Each year a mix of instructors are intentionally selected to from within and outside of the library profession. Each instructor has extensive expertise in their session topic.

Case studies have been created to provide real world scenarios for discussion after each module is taught.

An LDI LinkedIn Group was created specifically for graduates of the program. The LinkedIn Group serves as a sandbox to post questions, share experiences and share resources. LDI instructors will also contribute information and respond to questions related to their field.

Please consider this everyone involved with this program to be a permanent resource as you continue your leadership journey.