

W.Va. Library Commission Receives Award

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CHARLESTON - The West Virginia Library Commission has received a Partner Agency Award from the Region 2 WorkForce Investment Board, a nonprofit corporation focused on reducing unemployment. The commission was recognized for delivering "workforce enhancement, training and support over the past year," said Claude Hunt, executive director of the board. "We are proud to use the West Virginia Library Commission as an example for others and how companies and groups can immediately benefit from working with the West Virginia WorkForce system."

The commission fosters employment and skills enhancement with the WorkForce Investment Board, said Karen Goff, secretary of the commission.

"The Library Commission is honored to receive the award," Goff said.

The commission with the board makes the online learning platform Workforce Skills for 21st Century Success available on the board's website. The board in turn makes the system available to its constituents in southern West Virginia.

Developed by LearningExpress, Workforce Skills for 21st Century Success is a comprehensive online career resource and job search tool built to boost basic workplace skills, prepare workers for high-wage and high-skilled employment, and provide guidance in job search and real-time job postings. The product offers self-directed tutorials, practice tests and exercises, and eBooks that help improve the skills needed by today's job seekers.

Adult Services Consultant Susan Hayden led the Library Commission's part of the project. Hayden worked with the vendor on technical issues so that Region 2 WIB could serve as a national product test site. She also trained the Region 2 WIB staff to use the software and she coordinated publicity, which included a television spot that aired for eight weeks in the target area.

Clients can access the program in Region 2 offices and in places where broadband Internet access is available, such as public libraries.

Region 2 covers Cabell County. Affiliate sites are in Boone, Lincoln, Mingo, Putnam and Wayne counties. A satellite site is in Logan County.

Making the software available for Region 2 is a pilot program for the library commission, said Goff.

"We look forward to working with other WorkForce Investment Boards to enhance services throughout the state," Goff said.

The Library Commission encourages lifelong learning, individual empowerment, civic engagement and an enriched quality of life by enhancing library and information services for all West Virginians.

More information is available at www.librarycommission.wv.gov.

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