

COLAND COMMITTEE REPORTS
Strategic Vision for Library Systems in the 21st Century
September 2014

Work group members: Josh Cowles, Laurie Freund, Doug Lay, Bryan McCormick, Kathy Pletcher, Joan Robb, Jim Trojanowski. COLAND Chair: Nita Burke. DPI staff: Denise Anton Wright, Martha Berninger, John DeBacher.

Recommendations:

Charge: The charge of the work group is to develop a strategic vision for library systems in the 21st century for COLAND to recommend to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction by January 2015.

Background

State Superintendent Tony Evers met with representatives from the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) and the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA) as part of the process of preparing the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) biennial budget. DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology (Division) had submitted requests for funding to carry out activities related to system reorganization. The State Superintendent suggested to the group that he preferred to have COLAND, the advisory group with the statutory authority, provide advice to his office after reviewing recommendations coming out of internal and external study processes.

At the July 2014 COLAND meeting, Assistant State Superintendent Kurt Kiefer requested that members review study recommendations in a timely fashion and be able to report back by January 15, in order for the State Superintendent to be able to consider either budget items to be conveyed to the Governor, or legislation to be drafted.

Members from COLAND volunteered to serve on a work group to develop a Strategic Vision for Library Systems in the 21st Century and recommend the vision to the State Superintendent by January 1, 2015: Kathy Pletcher (Chair), Trustee, Brown County Library; Jim Trojanowski, Director, Northern Waters Library Service; Bryan McCormick, Director, Hedberg (Janesville) Public Library; Laurie Freund, Coordinator of Library Development, Waukesha County Federated Library System; Josh Cowles, IT Specialist, Fond du Lac Public Library; Doug Lay, Trustee, Wisconsin Valley Library Service; Joan Robb, Coordinator of Collection Management, UW-Green Bay. Nita Burke, COLAND Chair, will collaborate with this group.

Also, members of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will be working with this group: Denise Anton Wright, Public Library Administration; Martha Berninger, Director, Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning, and John DeBacher, Director, Public Library Development.

State Superintendent Tony Evers needs the results and recommendations by January 2015 in order to be able to submit budget and/or legislative requests for the 2015 Legislative session. COLAND meets on September 12 and November 14, 2014. The work group will have

preliminary recommendations to COLAND for review and feedback at their September meeting and a final recommended strategic vision completed for approval at the November COLAND meeting.

TIMELINE:

Superintendent Tony Evers needs recommendations by January in order to be able to submit budget and/or legislative requests for the 2015 Legislative session. COLAND meets on September 12 and November 14. The work group will have preliminary recommendations to COLAND for review and feedback at their September meeting, and have a final recommended strategic vision for the November COLAND meeting. COLAND Chair will then deliver the recommendation to Superintendent Tony Evers to meet his timeline.

ACTIONS:

There have been four meetings since the COLAND meeting in July 2014, two face-to-face and two Go to Meetings. The group looked at the previous SRLAAW Study for redesigning library systems. They also listened to a presentation of the LEAN study. The charge of the work group is clearly stated to develop a strategic vision for library systems in the 21st century for COLAND to recommend to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by January 2015. The group has established a timeline, identified threats and opportunities, established **and adopted the following principles to guide their development of a strategic vision for library systems in the 21st century:**

- 1) Transformation is key to success in the 21st century. Transformation involves disruptive change. Transformation involves letting go of the status quo to meet the evolving information, learning and technology needs of Wisconsin residents.
- 2) The status quo of 17 library systems requires significant overhead costs to maintain. Reducing the number of library systems will free up overhead dollars that can be reinvested into resources and services.
- 3) Consolidation must be accompanied by service redesign through increasing the use of technology, reducing duplication, utilizing LEAN production principles to streamline operations, and increasing the sharing of services among library systems.
- 4) Reducing the number of library systems and redesigning services will change the role of resource libraries. This is an opportunity to rethink the concept of resource libraries.
- 5) Libraries are transforming to an active learning environment and changing from a place for individuals to a collaborative space, and a shift to outreach —beyond the library walls. How can library systems provide resources and services to assist libraries with this transformation
- 6) Focus on the next big thing - create a bold vision for the future, delivering new services in new ways.