

**Workforce Collaboration: Cradle to Career**

Letty Leija, Library Director  
Dustin M. Sekula Memorial Library  
Edinburg, TX



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**Preaching to the Choir**

- ▶ As Librarians...you know the virtues of Libraries



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**The Library**

- ▶ Quiet place to study
- ▶ Place to check out books
- ▶ Boring



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## The Reality

Libraries are:

- Hubs of the community
- Great places to meet & connect
- Provide excellent resources
- Best of all...they have dedicated staff that are there to serve the community!




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## The Library: A Job Seeker's Best Friend

Libraries provide:

- Access to Job Databases and other Job Search Resources
- Internet Access Computers for Online Searches & Applications
- Provide career information and testing materials for civil service & many other types of employment.
- Classes such as ESL & Computer Classes
- Job Readiness Classes
- But best of all ...Libraries love to collaborate with other agencies!




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## The Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library

- Located in Edinburg, TX --
- County seat & home of University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley
- 88,000+ population



- Medium size Library
- Service Population - 125,849




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## The Numbers



The Rio Grande Valley experienced a late reaction to the recession:  
**2011 - Highest Unemployment Rate 10%**

As of February 2016 - 4.5 %

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## Our Program

- Materials and Resources
  - Adult Education Classes: ESL, GED and Computer
  - Job Readiness Workshops
  - Job Fairs
- In conjunction with our community partners

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## Collaborative Partners

### Program Partners

- The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley
- The Texas Work Force Solutions
- The Edinburg Economic Development Corporation
- The City of Edinburg

- Also local businesses,
- School District
- County



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## The Video

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## Tips & Strategies

- Start with the resources you have
- Create a space
- Give them the tools
- Establish partnerships
- Share Expertise & Resources
- Provide regular events
- Prepare your patrons & give them the full experience

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## Start With What You Have

- Online Resources
- Books on Careers, Civil Service Exams, etc..
- Computers, copiers, etc...



LearningExpress LIBRARY  
**Job & Career  
 Accelerator**




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## Create a Job Center

If possible include:

- A few computers
- Access to a typewriter
- Additional materials & resources
- Works best if its near the copiers!




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## Establish Partnerships




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## Share Expertise & Resources

Each of our partners bring their own expertise & resources

- University or College – Job Readiness Classes
- Work Force Solutions – Helps get the word out to job seekers, assist with promotion, assist the day of the event
- Economic Development Corporations or Chamber of Commerce – Great connections to business and hiring entities

Don't try to reinvent the wheel...Join forces!




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## Prepare Your Patrons & Give Them the Full Experience

Libraries all ready offer so much... including  
Adult Basic Education Classes  
Computer Classes  
Etc...

Take to the next step!



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## Job Readiness Workshops



- Resume Writing Workshops
- Interview Skill Workshop
- Dress for Success



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## Host a Job Fair

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## The Sky is the Limit!

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### Contact info:



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