

Monday Morning Eye-Opener March 31, 2025

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

March 31, 2025

Director Roundtables In May



At 15 Locations Statewide

A popular annual event is right around the corner—**Director Roundtables**. The **2025 Director Roundtables** will give attendees an opportunity to further dig into our education theme for this year: **Assess, Adapt, Act**.

With that focus, we'll explore strategies for assessing library services and the critical connections between staff performance reviews, program evaluations, and board engagement.

Director Roundtables will be held in-person at 15 locations across the state, with at least two offerings in each District. Each will be worth 3 hours of CE Credit. Find your preferred date and location on our webpage linked below, then register in WorkDay Learning. The **2025 Director Roundtable** discussion topics are expected to include:

- **Performance:** Translating staff and board training into action plans
- **Programming:** Defining a "successful" program and knowing if you've met your goals
- **Planning:** Evaluating services like library spaces and your long-term strategic plan

Join your fellow library directors to share insights, experiences, and success stories about the actions you've taken to improve your library using evaluations or assessments. In addition to these discussions, these **Roundtables** allow time for open-ended conversation on topics of interest to attendees.

[Director Roundtables: Register Today!](#)

Next Big Ideas Book Discussion

On May 16: Slow Productivity

The second title in this year's *Big Ideas Book Discussion* series is Slow Productivity: The Lost Art of Accomplishment Without Burnout by Cal Newport (c2024). Named one of the best books of 2024 by *The Economist* and by NPR, this **Big Ideas** session is scheduled for **May 16, 2025** (9:30-11:00AM)

Cal Newport has written several books dealing with today's workplace, among them Deep Work, Digital Minimalism, So Good They Can't Ignore You, and A World Without Email.

In his newest book Slow Productivity, he challenges the mindset that motivates many tech companies to "move fast and break things." Instead, his advice leads readers and workers to an easier place by adopting these three principles:

- (1) Do Fewer Things
- (2) Work at a Natural Pace
- (3) Obsess Over Quality

In exploring the ideas in this book, we hope to encourage librarians and their patrons to find ways to slow down, build up mental health, and say "goodbye" to busyness.

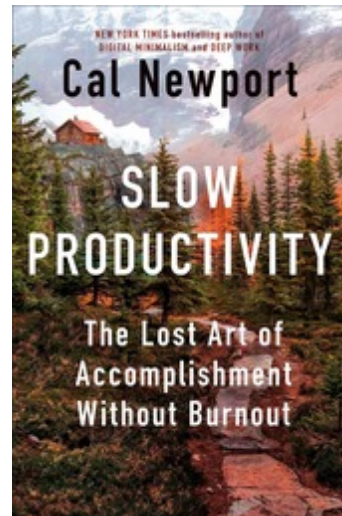
Of this book, one reviewer writes: *"If you are stretched thin and having trouble getting everything done, you need to speed up, right? Wrong. In Slow Productivity, Cal Newport does what he does best, delivering counterintuitive secrets that just might save your career and sanity."* Arthur C. Brooks, author of Build the Life You Want

About *Big Ideas Book Discussions*

State Library staff and guest stars facilitate discussions using books outside of library management, but with plenty of application to library management. Choosing books on leadership, customer service, technology's impact, etc. we connect those ideas with public library service. Participants are encouraged to purchase books used throughout the **Big Ideas** series for local collections.

Plan to meet us in ZOOM when we'll discuss Slow Productivity!

Big Ideas Book Discussion: Register Today!



Next New Director Meet-Up

April 15th Via ZOOM

The first **New Director Meet-Up** in January went so well that we're doing it again--21 people joined us for that very first gathering! The next opportunity is coming up on **April 15th online at 1:00PM**.

At the State Library, the District Consultants and the Library Resource Techs (LRTs) for each District are often



the first point of contact for newly hired library directors. District Consultants make initial visits to all libraries that welcome new directors, providing a State Library orientation; LRTs are in touch to assist with questions surrounding SILO, websites, Bridges, and much more.

So our rationale behind **New Director Meet-Ups** is this: District Consultants team up to build on our initial orientation visits by inviting all new directors to join us in ZOOM. This is a great chance to extend our early conversations with new people by meeting online with time to talk about library management issues in more detail.

This is very informal; we'll have some questions teed up, but this is really your chance for Q&A with us and with each other. Plus, we also see this as a great way to introduce you new directors to each other, inside and outside of your own District. It's called networking, ya'all 😊

We're planning for 3 times a year--winter, spring, and fall. And what do we consider "new?" We're thinking people who have been on the job for about 1 year, although that question is really best answered by you. If you've been working abit longer than that, but would like to feel more connection with colleagues, then come on in, the more the merrier!

So we urge you to **Save the Date** and join us on **April 15th** for **New Director Meet-Ups!** No registration necessary, ZOOM link at the button below.

Maryann's ZOOM Room

This Week and Next

STEM Fairs & Summer Reading Summits

Our **2025 STEM Fairs** and **Summer Reading Summits** conclude this week in Northwest Iowa. The **STEM Fair today March 31** and the **Summer Reading Summit tomorrow April 1st**. Both programs take place at **Rockwell City Public Library**, start time **9:30AM** each day.



You'll need to register for each workshop separately; the link below takes you to our webpage for more details on each event and direct registration links to each one.

STEM Fairs & Summer Reading Summits

Bridges Letter of Agreement Due Today

There are still a few libraries that have not yet submitted their **Bridges Letter of Agreement for FY26**. The **deadline** is today **March 31**, so if your library is among them, please see to this today. There are actually two **Letters of Agreement**--one for current

Bridges members, one for new members. **Find both LOAs** here


<https://statelibraryofiowa.gov/programs/bridges-elibrary>

National Library Week April 6-16

It's nearly here: this year's celebration of **National Library Week** happens **April 6-12**. Recognized nationwide, **NLW** is a wonderful time to showcase the valuable services that libraries contribute in communities across the country. 2025 marks the 67th **NLW** anniversary using the theme **"Drawn to the Library."** Whatever draws them in, the library has something for everyone! **Celebrate National Library Week April 6-12** 😊

[National Library Week Promos](#)

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