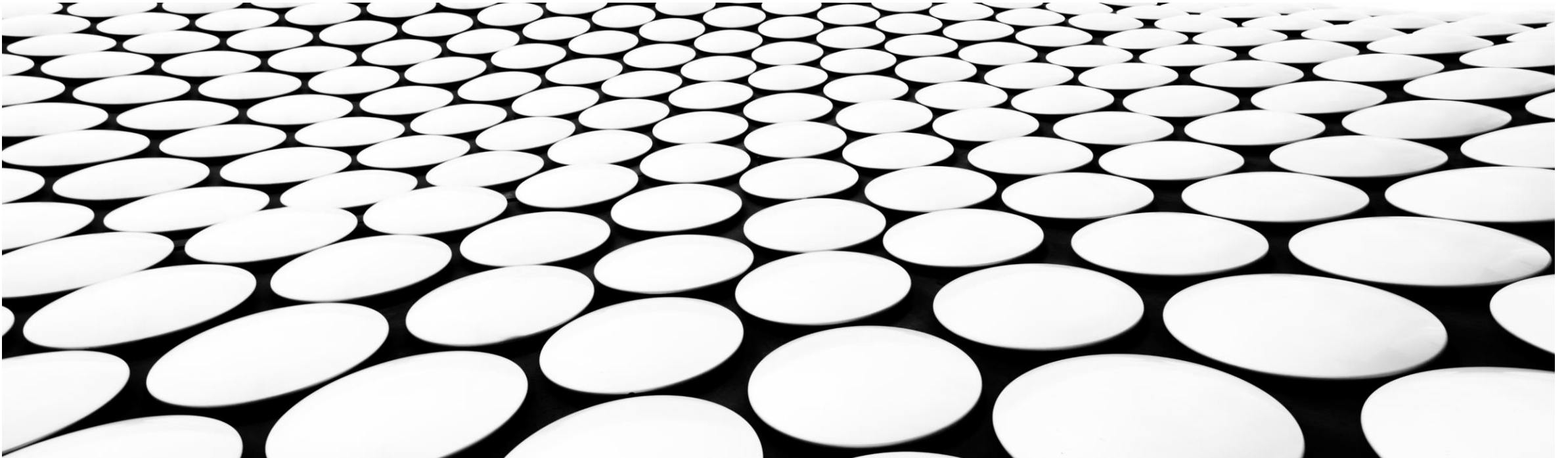# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS LIBRARIANS TOGETHER (SILT) WORKFORCE READINESS ENDEAVOR

DEVELOPING TOOLS FOR AN EXEMPLARY FUTURE

TIMELINE

SY 2009-2010

Local Information Literacy Group Forms

- Certified School Library Educators from OTHS 203, BTHS 201, MSD 19, & CUSD 10
- Post-Secondary Interviews
  - St. Louis University, Southwestern Illinois College, University of Illinois, & Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Original 9th Grade Information Literacy Assessment

SY 2013-2014

Local Information Literacy Group Revisits Post-Secondary Institutions

- Updated Interview Questions
  - St. Louis University, Southwestern Illinois College, McKendree University, University of Illinois, University of Missouri, & Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- New Knowledge to Inform Practice
  - Updated 9th Grade Information Literacy Assessment
  - Curriculum Developments

TIMELINE

Summer 2018

Southern Illinois Librarians Together (SILT) is Officially Chaptered under the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE)

- Certified School Library Educators

- Current Membership Includes OTHS 203, BTHS 201, MSD 19, CUSD 10, ESTL 189, TCUSD 2, OF 90, CCHS 165, ACUSD 11, CCHSD 71, FCHS 77, RCUSD 1, HCUSD 5, LCUSD 9

February 2019

SILT Begins Collaboration with the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

Council's Mission: Uniting the Region for Growth

- Nonprofit, member-based economic development corporation since 1983

- Works to unite the region for economic growth through its coalition of 250 board members who are leaders in business, industry, workforce, education, and government

- Develops the regional economic development agenda

- Lays the foundation for job growth and business retention

TIMELINE

March 2019 – September 2019

SILT Conducts an Updated Round of Post-Secondary Interviews

- Harris Stowe University, St. Louis University, Ranken Technical College, McKendree University, Southwestern Illinois College, Lindenwood University, Maryville University, University of Missouri

SILT Creates Standards-Aligned Information Literacy Toolkit for Post-Secondary Success

April 2020

Workforce Readiness Round Table is Cancelled Due to COVID-19 Outbreak

SY 2021-2022

Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois Experiences Leadership Changes

SY 2022-2023

SILT and Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois Collaborate for the Workforce Readiness Round Table

WORKFORCE READINESS ROUND TABLE

April 19, 2023: Hosted at the Center for Academic & Vocational Excellence, BTHS District #201

- **Audience:** Certified School Librarians and District Leaders

- **Moderator:** Kyle Anderson, Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

- **Round Table: Companies and Organizations**

  SM Wilson, Korte & Luitjohan, Louer Planning Group, Terminal Railway, Gulfstream, SRM Construction, Express Employment, Farnsworth Group, CA Jones, 932nd Airlift Wing, Landsdown Up, & HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital

WORKFORCE READINESS ROUND TABLE

- Examining Workforce Readiness Skills for Entry-Level Positions

- Using the Lens of Information Literacy

- Understanding Necessary Competencies

- Developing Skill-Building Toolkit for Area Educators

QUESTION CATEGORIES & SAMPLING OF QUESTIONS

We are focusing on workforce skills for entry-level positions. Our aim is to understand the necessary competencies so that we can develop learning benchmarks for 9th-12th grades in order to prepare students for the workforce. This process will enable us to further develop a toolkit for area educators.

Communication & Collaboration

- *To what extent are reading and writing skills utilized? Would you please provide examples of how employees utilize these skills in your industry?*

Information Access & Use

- *Is artificial intelligence (AI) affecting your business field and/or employees?*

Professionalism

- *How do you envision the division between an employee's personal online presence and professional online presence? Are published policies or trainings in place?*

SAMPLING OF ANSWERS

Information Access & Use Question

How do employees utilize critical thinking, creativity, and innovation to make decisions or solve problems in your industry?

Summary of Answer by Col. Glenn Collins, 923nd Airlift Wing

Three D's of decision making:

- Discipline Decisions Maker (take the time to do the research to know the problem issue yourself and know the policy that will help you answer that)

- Be Decisive in decision making (the right time, not quickly, at the right time with the right information)

- Be a Diplomatic Decision Maker (have a little bit of empathy; put yourself in their shoes)

SAMPLING OF ANSWERS

Communication & Collaboration Question

What interpersonal communication qualities are most desired in your industry? How are those skills utilized on a daily basis?

Summary of Answer by Diane Tyre, Gulfstream

We build multimillion dollar airplanes. People trust that we know what we are doing. Employees need to be self-assured and have enough self-confidence to speak out when things are not going correctly. Teach confident in problem-solving. Employees must be able to speak up when they do not understand or when something is not going correctly.

Information Access & Use Question

Is artificial intelligence (AI) affecting your business field and/or employees?

Summary of Answer by Jeff Mishkin, Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc.

Tools change over time. Fundamentals stay the same. You hire for attitude and train for skills. Soft skills will separate students. Prepare them for collaboration, team exercise, and communication.

NEXT STEPS: INFORMATION LITERACY TOOLKIT FOR WORKPLACE SUCCESS

DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLKIT

- Southern Illinois Librarians Together

IMPLEMENTATION

- Informing the Daily Instructional Practices of Certified School Library Educators
  - Forming a connection between Illinois learning standards and standards used at the post-secondary level and in the workplace
- Strengthening Students' Information Literacy Skills for Life After High School
  - Engaging in information literacy lessons with real-world application

PROMOTION

- Association of Illinois School Library Educators
  - Leadership
  - Statewide Chapters
- School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois
- Conferences
- Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

DEVELOPING TOOLS
TO
PREPARE OUR STUDENTS
FOR AN
EXEMPLARY FUTURE