



1) 'Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race' Webinars and Workshops

Next month, Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race begins year two. This spring, participants will learn about what it takes to be an active ally. [All Wisconsin public library workers are invited](#) to continue talking about and taking action toward racial equity in our workplaces, communities, and personal relationships. Register for one or all three webinars and save the date for an in-person workshop on June 15 and 16.

- Tuesday, April 18, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. [Beyond Diversity 101: Micro-inequities, Implicit Bias, and Moving Toward Equity](#)
- Thursday, May 4, 1 - 2 p.m. [How to Move Past Midwest Nice Towards Safety and Belonging](#)
- Wednesday, May 17, 1 - 2 p.m. [Build Skills & Take Action to Stand Up for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#)

2) Upcoming Events & News

- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction obtained the contract permissions from the Department of Administration for purchasing a **summer reading engagement tool**. Contract negotiations have begun and a seamless transition is expected from the previous statewide contract. Feel free to continue your Beanstack programs.
- Next month, WVLS will place the **Spring 2023 order for item barcodes**. The cost of barcodes varies depending on the size of the order. Approximate cost is \$20.00 - \$25.00 per thousand. Libraries who need barcodes should [fill out this form](#) by Friday, March 31. The next order will not be done until Fall 2023.
- The next **V-Cat Council** meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. An agenda and meeting documents will be available on the [V-Cat Council meetings page](#) ahead of the meeting.

3) Next Ryan Dowd Training

Homeless De-Escalation 401: Managing Your Own Emotions During Conflict

Thursday, April 13; 1 p.m.

- Two strategies for staying calm when conflict starts.
- Two strategies to use after you have passed the "thinking threshold"
- How to know you've passed the "effectiveness threshold" and how to exit the situation.

Contact Jamie at WVLS (jmatczak@wvls.org) for the registration link. The recording of the live training will be available for four weeks.

4) 'Book Fest' Set for May 1-2

WVLS and the Rhinelander District Library are pleased to announce that the Children's Book Fest will be held in-person this year! Now in its 35th year, this year's event will be held May 1-2 at the Pines Event Center in Rhinelander.

Attendees can browse recommended youth and teen titles published in 2022 made available through the Children's Cooperative Book Center (CCBC). Stay for the CCBC presentation "Current Trends in Children's Literature and the Best New Books of 2022" and learn how its nationally renowned Intellectual Freedom Information Services can help your library.

Books will be available for purchase on site. The cost to attend Book Fest is \$15. [Register here to attend.](#)

5) Unemployment Insurance Update: New Payment Portal

The Department of Workforce Development would like to inform libraries of a new payment portal to make Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance (UI) payments online for UI benefit overpayments or UI employer taxes.

Now anyone may logon to the UI Payment Portal to make a payment to an UI claimant or UI employer account. Examples of potential payers include: claimant, claimant spouse or relative, third party (employer or bank), UI employer, corporate officer, employer spouse or relative, payroll provider, or trustees/attorneys. [Read more.](#)

6) Upcoming Webinars

- [Creating Accessible Instructional Videos](#) - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29
- [Universal Design at Your Library](#) - 2 p.m. on Friday, March 31
- [Strategies and Tactics to Navigate Difficult Conversations with Confidence](#) - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5

7) Reminders

Growing gardens is good for your mind, body, spirit, and budget. To assist people in finding ways to grow nutritious food and beautiful landscapes, [We Energies](#) has teamed up with gardening expert [Melinda Myers](#). Together, they will produce and provide Wisconsin Public Libraries with free "Grow Budget-Wise, Beautiful Gardens Anywhere" educational program content for this growing season. The content and programming will be made available to libraries at no cost. Libraries may offer the programs and content to patrons throughout the months of April through September 2023. [Read more.](#)