FUTURE READY WITH THE LIBRARY
CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITIES FOR COLLEGE CAREER READINESS
Middle school is a crucial time for teens to begin planning for college and career next steps, frequently they have a hard time getting started. In this session you'll get the chance to talk about how the library can play a role in supporting middle school youth in this area.
THE LIBRARY’S ROLE

MORE THAN FAFSA & SAT PREP
IMLS FUNDED YALSA PROJECT

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By Linda W. Braun
WHAT IS COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS?

To young adolescents, four to six years in the future is an eternity. Yet we are asking them to think about what steps they need to take to be successful that far down the road—in postsecondary education or some form of career. I asked my eighth grade students what it means to be college and career ready. Here are some of their responses:

- "I want to learn something that I am actually going to use outside of school. With all due respect, reading all the stories in the textbook is not going to help me get ahead in life. I want something that’s real."
- "College and career ready is what we do in STEM class. We get to design different things using the computer and actually build it; sometimes it can even be printed in the 3D printer. I love testing our creations as we are building them. It lets us see if we have to go back and fix it."
- "I want to be a writer and have others read my writing. Sometimes I feel I want a larger audience than you [referring to the teacher] I want to write so others can read it, preferably short stories."
WHY MIDDLE SCHOOL?
"...the level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school."

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THINK FAMILIES TOO
HOW DOES COMMUNITY FIT IN?
"Library staff must also recognize the need to work hand-in-hand with community organizations to understand community needs in this area as well as the best means for providing the necessary resources and information." IMLS Proposal