

library leadership forum

March 2025 Resources



Discussed at Library Leadership Forum on 3/26/25:

the topic:

Leadership in Times of Low Morale. A few potential readings/webinars are:

- [Kaetrena Davis Kendrick on Low Morale Among Public Librarians](#) by Lisa Peet, Library Journal, 6/3/2020
- [Quitting Time: The Pandemic is Exacerbating Attrition among Library Workers](#) by Lara Ewen, American Libraries, 6/1/22
- [Researching Low Morale in Libraries](#) with Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, Webjunction webinar, recorded 4/18/23

discussion questions:

- Kendrick discusses the “low morale trajectory” and “triggering events” for library staff. What triggering events have you noted in your workplaces? What does the trajectory look like in your experience?
- Kendrick defines enabling systems as “systems that you would think were designed to help, but they inadvertently prolong or continue the experience of workplace abuse or neglect.” How have you seen library leadership create or support these “enabling systems?” How do good intentions go wrong?
- Kendrick contends that library leadership “need[s] to be aware of their leadership skills and gaps and be willing to set the standard.” What prevents leaders from doing this?
- “For some reason we think that we can't be nice and kind and helpful and also have boundaries, and that's how we get into mission creep, job creep, and vocational awe. We end up doing all the things.” What's your experience or advice in establishing boundaries, both with leadership and patrons?
- Kendrick distinguishes between self-care and self-preservation. What do you see as the difference?
- What does it look like to keep up morale in a world which seems increasingly more challenging?

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