# Reimagine Leadership While Managing Staffing Challenges

Panel Discussion Deschutes Public Library Team

Heidi Powers | Zoe Schumacher | Diana Hernández | Sara Brang

Moderator: Mayra Corn

#### Meet our in-person panel...



Heidi Powers



Zoe Schumacher



Diana Hernández



Sara Brang



Mayra Corn

#### Meet our panel, pt. 2:



Sara Farina & Shawna Daily

## Employment Trends

- Macroscopic > Microscopic
  - 2019 Present Day
  - United States
  - ► LIS Field
  - ► Central Oregon Experience



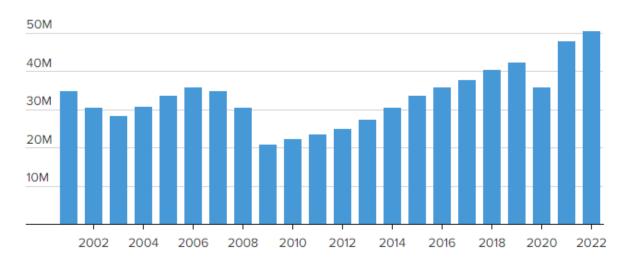
### Employment Trends

#### ▶ United States

2021 - 2022: The Great Resignation

#### A record 50.5 million people in the U.S. quit their jobs in 2022

It was the second consecutive year of record-breaking quitting.



Note: Total nonfarm jobs, seasonally adjusted

Chart: Gabriel Cortes / CNBC

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey via FRED

Data last updated Feb. 1, 2022



2020 - 35.8 M 2021 - 47.8 M 2022 - 50.5 M

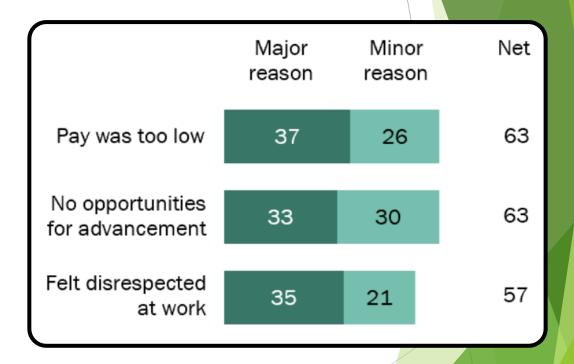
2019: 42 M

## Employment Trends

#### ► United States

2021 - 2022: The Great Resignation

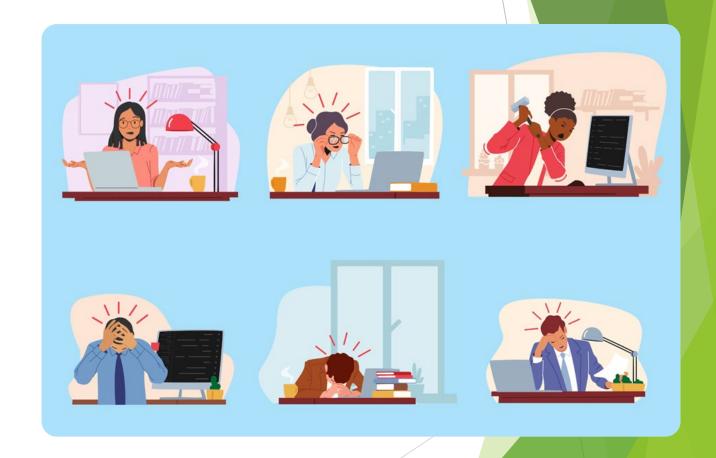
- ► Top Reasons and Causes
  - Low Pay
  - ► Opportunities for Advancement
  - ► Feeling of Respect



## Library Employment Trends

- Libraries
  - **Burnout**
  - ► Frustration
  - ► Low pay
  - ► Low morale

+Vocational awe



American Libraries Magazine, June 2022 Davis Kendrick, 2020

# Strategies

Leadership. While facing turnover, low morale and burnout.

- Communication
- Flexibility
- Involving librarians and staff in decision making
- Encourage and model a good work-life balance
- Empathy
- Tackle systemic issues

Public Libraries Online, Corsillo, 2020
Davis Kendrick, 2020
Corrado, 2022
American Libraries Magazine, Ewen 2022

# Strategies in Action!



#### Deschutes Public Library

Experiences and strategies used by DPL Staff to better support their colleagues and institutional health.



#### Heidi Powers

Operations Supervisor, Sunriver Library

- Strategies used to create network of support
- Observed Impacts
- Tools that have served the DPL Team

- Types of Staff Shortages
- Impacts & Leadership Roles
- Tools to bridge the gaps

We support One Another so that....

None of us Fall

# Impacts

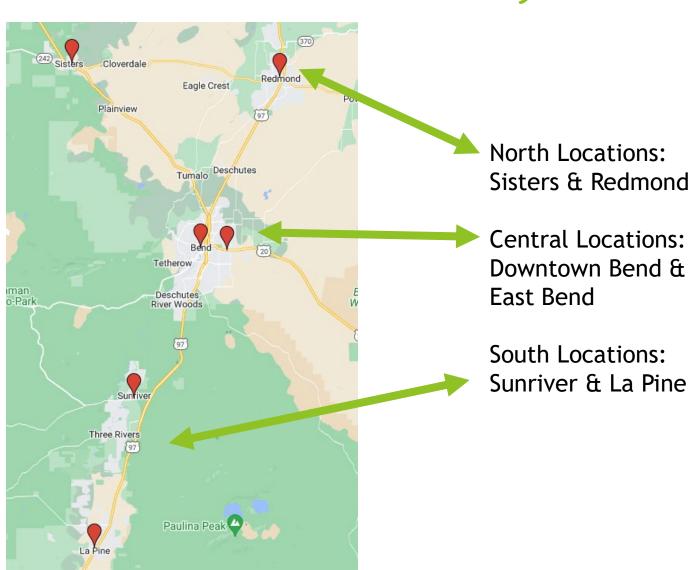
Shift changes - working hours, assigned desks, duties

► Backfill - with support staff and non-support staff





#### Location reference: backfilling by proximity



# Impacts

- Availability:
  - ► Redirect a desk
  - ▶ Open late
  - ► Close early
- Staff reassignments
  - ► Short term
  - ► Temporary



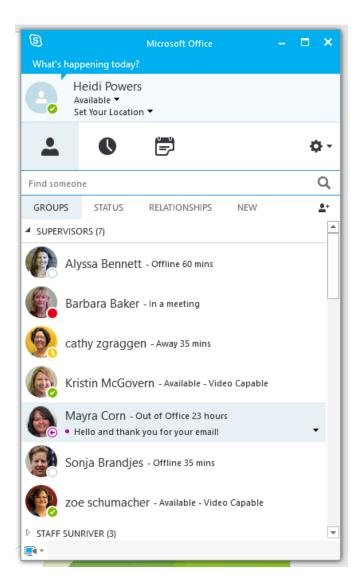
## Desk Shift Coverage



# Staff Schedules: Various tools, but available for all supervisors to edit



#### Green Dots!



For immediate support, Skype will let staff know which supervisor is currently available by noticing the green "available" button.

#### Where's Waldo: Providing staff support when direct supervisor is out

- I will be off (date). During my absence, please call or text xxxx when calling in ill or unable to report to work for any other reason. xxx's cell is 541-480-xxxx. In the event you **do not** get a reply within 30 minutes, call or text another supervisor, or Mayra @ 1-702-370-xxxx. It is your responsibility to make sure this connection happens.
- Library Operations Supervisors are:
- South County:

Cathy Zgraggen, La Pine Heidi Powers, Sunriver

Bend:

Alyssa Bennett, Downtown Bend Kristin McGovern, Downtown Bend

Barbara Baker, East Bend

North County:

Sonja Brandjes, Redmond Zoe Schumacher, Sisters

- Phone numbers can be located: Emergency Phone List
- Note: All supervisors text

For all other daily operations, xxxx will be your go to. If she is not available, look for other supervisors green dots on Lync. See the above list.

If for any reason, you are unable to reach an Operations Supervisor, please contact Mayra for back up.

# Tools used for Staffing Shortages

 Enhanced Team Leadership

2. Leadership Tools

**Email/Text** 

Desk Shift Coverage Calendar

Access to branch schedules

Access to staff numbers

3. Support Staff Tools

Instant Messaging TM e-mail

Staff Engagement

A

Retention



# ➤ What do you look forward to when you come to work each day?

"I look forward to working with my team members simple as that may sound. They are a smart bright bunch of young people that are interested in doing a good job for DPL and also interested in the goings on in the bigger world. I appreciate the perspectives they have, they sometimes enlighten me and make me feel just a tad smarter. It's really wonderful when you work with people that don't create drama and work together well. I live alone and so I think my brain would just turn into cheese if I did not get out in the world via work."

> ~Sara Farina, East Bend PSS Joined DPL August 2008

"I look forward to fostering connections with my coworkers and our customers. I enjoy being a mentor to my newer coworkers and sharing the knowledge that I've built over the years and then on the other hand I enjoy their fresh perspectives on how we can make the library better for our customers. I also enjoy trying to make the workplace fun for them. Recently I hid plastic eggs with candy around the staff area so that they could hunt for these throughout the day. It truly fills my heart to do things like this to bring a touch of happiness to their days."

~Shawna Dailey, East Bend PSS Joined DPL May 2008

# You've been with us a number of years, what would you or do you find helpful to stay engaged & keep your momentum going?

"Always take your TM, you have earned it and it's good to get away and take a break. Also I remind myself daily when dealing with customers that this is someone's mother, father, sister, brother, and you would want your family members treated kindly and with respect. I also try to give at least one random compliment every day, it makes me smile inside to make someone feel better about their day."

~Sara Farina, East Bend PSS

"Being a full-time employee with the accompanying pay and benefits have allowed me to financially support myself in a long-term career here at the library. I've enjoyed the annual step increases (as well as cost of living adjustments) and the increasing amount of TM allotted to me as the years have passed.

Honestly, I stay engaged because I feel fulfilled that I have a job that allows me to be of service to the community. It's incredible that I get to foster lifelong learning and share our amazing resources with our customers, and then as a staff member I am able to be a lifelong learner as well. It's so much fun to take classes and be on different districtwide teams, changing my responsibilities and goals as the years go on. I like that the job is ever-changing in order to best enrich this community that I love."

~Shawna Dailey, East Bend PSS

#### Diana Hernández, Community Librarian Specialty: Latino Services Joined DPL: October 2022

- 1). What inspired you to apply for a job at DPL?
- 2). What do you look forward to when you come to work each day?
- 3). As a newer employee, what did you or do you find challenging?
- 4). What would you or do you find helpful to stay engaged & keep your momentum going?



EmployeeEngagementSurvey - 2018

Top request from staff~ increase professional development



#### DPL Learning & Development

"In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact." - Les Brown

New Employees	All Employees	Leaders
90-Day Onboarding Training	Monthly Online Learning	Coaching Training
Orientation Event	Feedback Reinforcement Training	Leadership Training
Model Reference Behavior Training	Professional Development Courses	Leadership Roundtable Meetings
Intellectual Freedom Training	Professional Development Books	
DiSC Behavioral Assessment	Professional Development Coaching	
Feedback Training	Performance Management Program	

Niche Academy & SafePersonnel

Public Sector Partners

Executive Coaches

DPL L&D Program Manager DPL Knowledge Experts

#### Performance Management Program

Focused on building relationships that help employees reflect on their performance and discover new possibilities for growth and success.

One-on-One Meetings

Provide consistent communication to build connection, improve performance, and explore development.

Competencies

Align performance, behavior, skills, and mindset with DPL's Mission and Core Values.

**SMART Goals** 

Provide clearly defined expectations and road map for success, aligning with DPL's Mission and Core Values.

**Training** 

Provide knowledge, skills, and abilities for performance achievement and growth.



"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations." - Dr. Mae Jemison

#### WIIFM

(what's in it for me?)

#### Committees, Project & Action teams

district wide representation
opportunities for innovation & creativity
ongoing dialogue
build "culture"
connection & belonging



#### Monthly All staff meetings

1st Fridays every month, 60 minutes
ZOOM platform
Recorded
focused agenda
Lead by Director, Todd Dunkelberg

#### Highlights:

2-3 staff introduce themselves music playlist created by a different team each month

#### Staff recognition

Hint: It's not always chocolate

# What recognition do you appreciate? How does receiving or not receiving that recognition effect your job satisfaction?

"Having full time hours feels like recognition. I could not continue to afford to live and work here if I did not have a full time position." 
~Sara Farina

"I appreciate when Todd makes his blog posts recognizing employees for their achievements and anniversaries. It's a lot of fun to see my coworkers recognized for their achievements!

I love peer recognition: celebrating birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries at the branch, and I find value in being on the giving end of that recognition. I think having that camaraderie with my coworkers is necessary for my job satisfaction. I need to feel like we are friends as well as coworkers, that we truly care about each other since we spend the majority of our time at work together."

~Shawna Dailey

#### A moment of gratitude...



# Thank-you!

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    - **541-617-7070**
  - Sara Farina, Public Service Staff
  - Shawna Dailey, Public Service Staff

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