



## REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION (RFP): COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS/LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

<b>Issued by</b>	<b>Learn &amp; Work Ecosystem Library</b>
<b>Announcement Date</b>	<b>March 1, 2024</b>
<b>Application Due Date</b>	<b>Accepting Rolling Submissions</b>

**OVERVIEW:** The Learn & Work Ecosystem Library (Library) is seeking participation by colleges, universities, high schools, intermediaries, and other organizations to explore the Library as an information resource during 2024. Selected applicants will review the Library’s resources to determine the extent to which the Library is a useful tool to learn about the learn-and-work ecosystem and to assist in acquiring information for educational and work-related uses.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Opportunities are available to applicants through the Community of Learners/Library Partnership RFP in several categories:

1. **Self-designed project(s).** Participants may self-design project(s) in their exploration of the Library. Examples include reviews on topics chosen by participants; fact-checking of content; adequacy of content availability within thematic areas; and preparation of short reports and briefing papers that may be of interest to organizations such as foundations, governmental agencies, intermediaries/think tanks, and leaders in the learn-and-work ecosystem. Projects may be undertaken by individual students, faculty members, teachers, or staff; by teams; through class assignments; and through internships established by participants in collaboration with the Library and its collaborators. Most projects are expected to be conducted over a period of one to three months; longer timelines are acceptable (as long as eight months), especially when student participants are establishing an internship with their academic institution, or a researcher or research team is addressing a specific project.
2. **Library-assigned project(s).** Participants may request assignments from the Library rather than self-designing project(s).
3. **Network opportunities.** Participants will receive invitations to bi-monthly webinars that will allow them to share their progress and learn about ongoing topics in the learn-and-work ecosystem. Participants will also be invited to network with peer participants through email chain chats.
4. **Publish research.** Participants may submit short reports, blogs, and other documents developed during their project(s) to the Library for potential publication at the Library’s Research Center.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Eligible applicants include:

- Students, faculty, and staff from postsecondary academic programs, departments, or schools.
- High school level students, teachers, and staff such as school counselors.
- Other interested individuals and organizations, especially those that wish to explore the Library as a professional development tool.

**ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS:** Participants selected to participate will be asked to answer the following questions after their engagement with the Library:

1. Which disciplines at high schools or higher education institutions include curricular content about the U.S. learn-and-work ecosystem? Provide brief information about the topics and depth of coverage provided within each discipline.

2. Which disciplines at higher education institutions are preparing students for careers in the learn-and-work ecosystem? These might include careers in federal and state governmental agencies, policy and research think tanks/intermediaries, innovation projects working to improve components of the learn-and-work ecosystem; and foundations and groups that invest in improving the ecosystem. Provide brief information about the options provided to students to prepare for careers within each named discipline.
3. To what extent do you think that the Library can be useful as a teaching tool for students, faculty, and staff interested in the learn-and-work ecosystem (cross-disciplinary area of study)? If you are a working/learner or associated with an intermediary (not an educational institution), to what extent do you think that the Library can be useful as a professional tool for staff at your organization? For either category, to what extent are the Library's resources:
  - a. Unique among the resources available to you?
  - b. Useful? Which sections of the Library are most useful and in what ways: Index? Glossary? Key Components? Topics? Initiatives? Organizations? Archive? Reference Librarian? Other? If not useful, what other resources are used, and in what ways could/should the Library provide more useful resources ?
  - c. Supplemental to other resources already being used, and in what ways?
  - d. Credible? Do the resources meet your requirements for timely, reliable, unbiased information and resources?

**APPLICATIONS:** Applicants are invited to participate by using an [E-Application Form](#). The form allows applicants to indicate which of various activities they are most interested in participating in. Services will include access to Library resources, peer-to-peer networking, webinars, technical assistance from the Library's team of experts, and opportunities to publish research.

**DUE DATE.** Rolling submissions accepted through December 2024.

**REVIEW AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS.** Applications will be reviewed, and those invited to join the initiative will be notified within two weeks of application submission.

**DURATION.** Participation may extend from **May 1 to December 1, 2024**, depending on the applicant's interests. For student applicants, projects may be conducted during academic Spring Term, summer, and academic Fall Term. For others, academic term timelines will not likely be relevant.