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Contact: Brenda J. Breaux
(213) 228-7555

Los Angeles Public Library and Princeton Review Host Seminar to Motivate Students to Stay in School, Graduate and Go to College

Homework Help, Online Tutoring and Test Prep Offered FREE at all 73 Libraries and Online

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 15, 2015 – Los Angeles Public Library and Princeton Review have invited more than 200 high school students to the downtown Central Library Thursday, Oct. 29, for the Student Smart Motivational Seminar where they will be encouraged to focus on education, career options and financial freedom.

The middle school students – from Horace Mann, Markham and Hollenbeck Middle Schools and the Watts Learning Center – will also learn about the many free educational tools provided by the library to help them achieve their goals. Programs such as free homework help and online tutoring to help students stay on track, graduate and prepare for college. The programs are available at the downtown Central Library and 72 branch libraries throughout the city. Students can also access program schedules and online services at www.lapl.org/teens.

“The library has always been the place for students to come and study and prepare for school. We have just expanded that role,” said Candice Mack, Senior Librarian, for the library’s Young Adult Services. “Our goal is to help these students not only to do well in middle and high school, but also to graduate, do well on the SAT and ACT, and apply and go to college.”

Improving opportunities to attend college is the goal of the library’s popular Student Smart series that will provide nearly 200 free programs this year to help teens become better students and to prepare and apply for college. Programs include SAT, PSAT and ACT prep sessions, 96 practice tests and an additional 103 workshops on how to take tests, write a college essay and find money for college. The Student Smart series is provided in partnership with the Princeton Review and funded by donor Linda Dutterhaver.

(more)

Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

“Next year the SAT is changing. The library will provide free, five-part workshops to prepare students for those changes,” said Mack, who is also president of the national Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA).

“Empowering students to do well in college requires strengthening their study habits and skills in middle and high school,” Mack said. Students can take advantage of free student initiatives like Student Zones, an after school program that provides safe, quiet places, free school supplies and library resources from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. This program has been expanded to 34 libraries, including 25 that have Student Zone Helpers to assist students with using the library’s online services including Live Homework Help.

Live Homework Help is a free online tutoring service available from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily to help students with a variety of subjects. All tutors are vetted to ensure that they have expertise in their subject areas.

The Los Angeles Public Library has also partnered with Gale/Cengage to provide Los Angeles residents aged 19 and older an opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online through Smart Horizons Career Online Education’s Career Online High School, a free program. Applicants must have a library account in good standing. For more information about the Career Online High School program, visit www.lapl.org/cohs.

For those who want to take a class, learn a new language or take practice tests, the library also provides a variety of online classes at <http://www.lapl.org/collections-resources/online-learning>.

A 2015 recipient of the nation’s highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than 6 million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at www.lapl.org, and more than 18,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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