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## **Los Angeles Public Library's Career Online High School Hosts Fall 2018 Graduation Ceremony**

### **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Presents Diplomas**



**Los Angeles, October 10, 2018** —The Los Angeles Public Library honored a new group of graduates from its Career Online High School (COHS) in a ceremony at Central Library, which featured Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Librarian John F. Szabo.

Los Angeles Public Library was the first public library in the nation to offer adults 19 and over the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online through COHS.

"Our libraries are places where Angelenos come to learn, grow, and get the skills they need to move up and ahead," said Mayor Garcetti. "This program is more than just an accredited high school diploma — it's an open door to opportunity and a better life."

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**Peter Persic**, Public Relations & Marketing Director

The Library launched its program in 2014, enrolling qualified adults in a pilot program that offered grants to residents of the City of Los Angeles. There is no cost to students for the program, who are looking to advance their careers, prepare for workforce entry or continue their education.

To date, 186 students have graduated from the program, and an additional 318 are currently enrolled. The library will host the next graduation ceremony in spring 2019.

“We are immensely proud of the students enrolled in Los Angeles Public Library’s Career Online High School, and proud that the number of graduates has increased so that we now are holding two graduation ceremonies per year,” said City Librarian, John F. Szabo. “Diplomas change lives; education changes lives; and the library will continue to offer innovative ways in which all our community members can change their lives for the better.”

Los Angeles has among the nation’s highest high school dropout rates, with upwards of 25 percent of adult residents lacking a high school diploma, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. A high school education can be interrupted for many reasons: family needs, illness, working multiple jobs. A traditional high school curriculum with daily classes does not work for everyone.

Once enrolled, COHS pairs each student with an academic coach, who provides the student with an individual career path, offers ongoing guidance, evaluates performance and connects the student with the resources needed to master the courses. Students have up to 18 months to complete the program.

Funding for the Career Online High School is provided by the Library Foundation of Los Angeles and the State Library.

For more information about the Career Online High School program, including the qualification requirements and application process, visit the Los Angeles Public Library website at [www.lapl.org/diploma](http://www.lapl.org/diploma).

A 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](http://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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