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Los Angeles Public Library's Career Online High School Hosts Spring 2019 Graduation Ceremony

Central Library Event Celebrates Program's Fifth Anniversary



Los Angeles, April 22, 2019—The Los Angeles Public Library honored its fifth group of graduates from Career Online High School (COHS) in a ceremony at Central Library on April 20, which featured 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.

“We are so proud to be entering year five of Career Online High School here at Los Angeles Public Library,” said City Librarian, John F. Szabo. “This game-changing program exemplifies our commitment to lifelong learning. Since we began offering COHS, 248 students have graduated from the program, and an additional 343 are currently enrolled.”

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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. COHS graduated 12 students during the first fiscal year of the program. This fiscal year, 72 have already completed their requirements for graduation, and we still have three months to go.

There is no cost to students for the program, who are looking to advance their careers, prepare for workforce entry or continue their education. 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.

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.

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.

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, and more than 25,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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