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Los Angeles Public Library Holds First In-Person Career Online High School Graduation Ceremony in Three Years

LOS ANGELES (October 14, 2022)—The Los Angeles Public Library celebrated the graduation of the Fall 2022 class of its Career Online High School (COHS) in a ceremony at Central Library, which featured Mayor Eric Garcetti; City Librarian John F. Szabo; Bich Ngoc Cao, President of the Board of Library Commissioners; and Stacy Lieberman, President & CEO of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.



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. The Library began its program in 2014, enrolling

qualified adults in a 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, 761 students have graduated from the program, and hundreds more are currently enrolled in it. Although not all attended the ceremony, 84 students were eligible to graduate with the fall class. Today's graduation event was the first in-person ceremony held at the library since 2019. However, during the pandemic, the library held several online ceremonies for students.

City Librarian John F. Szabo said, "The past few years have been difficult in so many ways, but our Career Online High school graduates took on the additional challenge of earning their high school diplomas. They made education a priority to help them achieve new goals in life, and we are so proud of them."

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, The Clinton Global Initiative Scholarship Matching Program and the California 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 lapl.org/cohs.

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 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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