

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

George F. Johnson Memorial Library <Endicott, NY> Awarded Broadband Grant: Offering FREE computer training and resources related to critical Workforce Development Skills.

The George F. Johnson Library in Endicott, NY was recently awarded a \$244,517 **Public Computer Center** grant as part of the *Broadbandexpress@your library* project under the direction of the New York State Library through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

One of the main goals of this federally sponsored program is to provide funding for training and resources that will help vulnerable populations, such as the unemployed or underemployed, learn critical workforce development skills.

The funding from this two-year grant will allow the library to:

- Expand existing computer services by adding a dedicated computer lab that has a daily schedule of workshops on a variety of topics geared specifically to job seekers, those who need basic computer skills and senior citizens
- Offer one-on-one instruction to community members through regularly scheduled daily "drop in" hours

The goal of this two year program is to provide all community members with comfortable, convenient and timely access to the equipment and training they need to become digitally literate citizens, and to assist with workforce development skills.

The training will include sessions on how to search for employment opportunities utilizing on-line tools, plus instruction on a wide variety of computer based resources including: email, social networking, instant messaging, basic word processing and database software programs. Workshop listings along with a link to an online registration form are located at the library website, <http://www.gfjlibrary.org/>, and click on the **PCC** tab. You can also call 607.757.5350 to register or drop by the reference desk.

George F. Johnson Memorial Library was one of thirty libraries across New York State to receive this grant through the New York State Library. The grant will provide more than 860 computers in 30 libraries and five mobile training centers across 41 upstate New York counties with populations totaling 6,655,824 (2008 census).

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For further information contact: Library Director at 607.757.5350 or e-mail <en.web@4cls.org>.