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JobLink to host open house

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Painted Post, N.Y. – The Southern Tier Library System is unveiling its new, FREE service – JobLink – at an open house in Steuben County on February 19, 2011 at 10:00AM at the Dormann Library in Bath.

The Southern Tier Library System is the recipient of a \$255,430 grant administered by the New York State Library. The project, JobLink, is a mobile training unit to help area residents improve their computer and internet skills to find employment. The grant is part of a \$9.5 million grant obtained by New York - the largest to date in the Federal Recovery Act's Public Computing Centers category nationwide.

Ristiina Wigg, executive director of the Southern Tier Library System, called JobLink “a new model for how libraries can be effective supporters for their community.”

“The job market today is an online market - online resumes, online job applications, online communication, email. Understanding how to use computers is all part of the process. And if you haven't had to do those things for a long time, not only do you have the stress of having to look for a job, you have the stress of having to know all those things, too.

“So people who've lost their jobs, or who are looking for better jobs, are coming to libraries for help,” Wigg said.

JobLink will maintain a strong connection with local libraries by providing classes and training in the 48 libraries across Steuben, Chemung, Yates, Schuyler and Allegany counties that the Southern Tier Library System serves. Another natural connection will be with Workforce New York offices. By partnering with local agencies, JobLink will have the opportunity to provide supplemental services where there is a demand or new services in under-represented areas.

“CSS Workforce New York looks forward to building a strong partnership with STLS and the local library system to offer access points in many more communities. The grant funds will help deliver services to more people, and assist the workforce system meet the strong demand for job search assistance,” said Dan Porter, executive director of Chemung Schuyler Steuben Workforce New York.

Services focus on digital literacy skills, training and support for finding a new career. The JobLink van is a mobile computer lab complete with a fleet of laptops, a trainer and technician with the ability to set up in any location. The additional advantage of this grant program is its ability to bring broadband access to individuals who have limited or no access. Some examples of classes are resume creation, using on-line job search engines, completing on-line forms and applications, basic computer skills, introduction to Microsoft Word and Excel. There will also be classes on using social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

This two-year grant is being funded by the New York State Library, a unit of the Office of Cultural Education within the New York State Education Department (NYSED). The funding is being provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and is to expand computer access in public libraries across New York State.

For more information about JobLink visit <http://JobLink.stls.org> or contact Anna Ezzolo, Program Coordinator, by e-mail ezzoloa@stls.org or phone 607-962-3141 extension 203.