

## **Moore Memorial Library One of 30 Libraries in NYS to Receive Funds for Expanded Computer Access and Training**

A two year computer access/skills program is underway in the new computer lab in the basement level of the Moore Memorial Library in Greene, NY. Fueled by a grant through the New York State Library, Moore Memorial has been awarded \$244,517.00 and will join 29 other libraries in NY State in becoming a **Public Computing Center**. The grant is part of the State Library's Broadbandexpress@yourlibrary project which seeks to expand opportunities, education, and services via high speed Internet to all community members. Grant focus during the first year is on job seeking skills for the unemployed and underemployed in our communities. Second year focus will be emerging technologies for small businesses and videoconferencing.

The Broadbandexpress@yourlibrary project is funded by a \$9.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to expand computer access in public libraries across New York State. The funding is being provided through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

Broadbandexpress@yourlibrary will provide Greene with 18 new computers, a digital camera, videoconferencing equipment and increased broadband speed. One full time manager and three part time trainers will staff the center providing classes, instruction and support. A key focus at each of the Computing Centers will be workforce development: e-mail set up and access, resume preparation, online applications, digital literacy training and job search skills. Assistance to small businesses and access to essential e-government resources will also be available.

Based on a survey of library patrons, Moore Memorial also plans to offer computer classes in social networking, digital photography, on-line security, maintenance and troubleshooting, and genealogy. High speed wireless access, classes and instruction are free and open to the public.

New York State's Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for libraries Bernard Margolis said "The Public Computing Centers, funded and supported under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), are designed to bring the fruits of high-speed connectivity to everyone. Many parts of New York State will for the first time be able to experience the bounty of communications and content available online. The Public Computing Centers are a primary outpost for free public access to a wide array of broadband services. As part of a highly effective network, the PCCs and the libraries of which they are a part will continue the critical role as a hub for community life and service."