

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: July 18, 2018

CONTACT: Jasmin LoBasso

Marketing Division

jasmin.lobasso@kernlibrary.org

661.868.0736

News Release

Online, Flexible, and FREE! Apply for a Library Scholarship to Earn Your High School Diploma

Career Online High School Program Available to Bakersfield Residents through the Kern County Library

The Kern County Library is offering qualified community members, 19 and older with a library card in good standing, the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate through *Career Online High School*, a program brought to public libraries by Gale: a Cengage company and the California State Library. This program is specifically designed to reengage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education or the workforce.

“Earning a high school diploma is a life-changing achievement,” says Andie Sullivan, Director of Kern County Libraries. “By offering *Career Online High School*, we’re empowering our residents to seek new opportunities and transform their lives.”

The Kern County Library will award 6 scholarships for *Career Online High School* to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Once enrolled, each student is paired with an Academic Coach, who assists with developing an individual career plan, offers ongoing guidance and encouragement, evaluates performance, and connects the learner with the resources needed to demonstrate mastery of the course material.

“We’re delighted to partner with the Kern County Library to offer *Career Online High School* and give residents access to education and the potential to change their lives,” said Paul Gazzolo, Senior Vice President and General Manager for Gale.

Classes are supported by board-certified instructors and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Coursework begins in one of eight high-growth, high-demand career fields, before progressing to the core academic subjects. Students are able to graduate in as little as 6 months by transferring in previously earned high school credits, but are given up to 18 months to complete the program.

How It Works & How to Apply

- **Step 1:** Take the online [self-assessment](#). Once completed, you will be contacted by a Kern County Library staff member to proceed.
- **Step 2:** [Enroll](#) in and complete a pre-requisite course in two weeks or less.
- **Step 3:** Congratulations! A Kern County Library staff member will contact you for an interview. Successful interviewers will be notified if they have received the Library scholarship.

For more information, visit kernlibrary.org