

## **COUNTY OF YOLO**

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock County Administrator

Beth Gabor Manager of Operations & Strategy 625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695 (530) 666-8042 • FAX (530) 668-4029 www.yolocounty.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** February 18, 2016 Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer (530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

## Earn an Accredited High School Diploma at the Yolo County Library

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Library is offering community members an opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate through Career Online High School (COHS), a program brought to public libraries by Gale, a for profit company a part of Cengage Learning.

COHS is a pilot project, recently signed by Governor Brown, with a \$1 million budget aimed at helping Californians earn a high school diploma online. The California State Library is assisting with the program's implementation and working to create partnerships and funding opportunities at the local and state levels. The Yolo County Office of Education has agreed to generously give \$10,000 of the \$17,000 in matching funds required by the State Library. The Yolo County Library is continuing to work with the Yolo County Office of Education and Yolo County school districts to raise the remaining funds.

"Earning a high school diploma is a life-changing achievement," said Yolo County Librarian Patty Wong. "By offering Career Online High School, we're empowering our residents to seek new opportunities to transform their lives and increase their earning potential."

The Yolo County Library will award 30 scholarships for COHS to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Once enrolled, students will be paired with an academic coach who will provide individual career plans, ongoing guidance and encouragement, performance evaluations and needed resources. In addition, students will receive service and support from library staff. 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-demand career fields (from child care and education to certified transportation) before progressing to core academic subjects. Many students are able to graduate in as few as four to six months by transferring previously earned high school credits.

Candidates must complete a self-assessment to determine eligibility by visiting the library website at: <u>www.yolocountylibrary.org/diploma</u>. For additional information, e-mail the library at <u>diploma@yolocounty.org</u> or contact Scott Love at (530) 757-5595.

The Yolo County Library fosters personal and workforce development by providing learning opportunities that can change lives. For more information about the Yolo County Library visit: <u>www.yolocountylibrary.org</u> or connect with the Yolo County Library on Facebook at: <u>www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org</u>.