



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Gerardo Pinedo
County Administrative Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 ▪ Woodland, CA 95695
www.yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2023

Contact: Dwight Coddington
Email: PIO@YoloCounty.org
Phone: (530) 908-0186

YoloWorks! Career Centers Now Offer the NorthStar Digital Literacy Assessment

(Woodland, CA) – YoloWorks!, the Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board, and the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency will give jobseekers an opportunity to obtain a Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment, aimed at helping adults acquire the skills they need in today’s workplace.

“People without basic computer know-how are at a disadvantage when it comes to finding a job because employers expect basic computer skills for most jobs, including many entry-level positions,” said Workforce Innovation Board Director Erica Johnson. “We joined Northstar because it will help our clients have a better chance at getting jobs and getting ahead.”

The free set of assessments includes self-guided modules: Essential Computer Skills (Basic Computer Skills, Internet Basics, Using Email, Windows, Mac OS), Essential Software Skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), and Using Technology in Daily Life (Social Media, Information Literacy, and Creative Job Search). Closed captioning is available and screen readers are supported.

Anyone can access the modules and take the tests online at digitalliteracyassessments.org. At the end of each test, the user receives a page of results, which lists the skills that have been mastered and the areas that need improvement. Many community organizations offer computer classes that are aligned with Northstar Digital Literacy Standards.

“The modules are based on a set of basic computer competency benchmarks developed by a diverse group of literacy providers, business representatives, and nonprofit agencies,” said Erica Johnson. “These standards help ensure that computer classes are teaching adult learners the exact skills they need to succeed in the workplace.”

To earn a certificate for one or more of the modules, adults must take the tests in a supervised setting at an approved test site. YoloWorks! Career Centers is among the community organizations using the standards as part of its programming and offering the certificates.

All interested Yolo County residents may start their journey toward digital literacy with Northstar by visiting www.yoloworks.org, looking under the JobSeeker tab, and clicking on NorthStar Digital Literacy. Those interested are also welcome to visit one of our YoloWorks! Employment Centers in Woodland or West Sacramento or contact the YoloWorks! Employment Center via email at jobcenter@yolocounty.org.

For more information, please contact Erica Johnson at Erica.Johnson@yolocounty.org or call/text (530) 631-2289.

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