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## Going Back to School Makes a Great New Year's Resolution

*Library program helps adult residents kick start 2019 by earning an accredited high school diploma and career training through Career Online High School*

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**Panama City, FL, December 27, 2019** --With the new year, comes New Year's resolutions. Peoples' most popular picks include healthy eating, exercise, and money management. It's also a great time to focus on advancing one's education and career opportunities. Northwest Regional Library System (NWRLS), serving Bay, Gulf and Liberty counties, offers a new program called *Career Online High School* designed for adults who lack a high school diploma and could benefit from additional job training.

This [nationally accredited](#) program allows adult students to earn an accredited high school diploma (not a GED) while gaining career skills in one of eight employment fields. NWRLS is currently seeking qualified residents to enroll in the free program.

"The start of the new year is a perfect time to set a new life course and prepare for a bright future. Earning a high school diploma is key stepping stone to achieving long-term goals," says Library Director Robin Shader. "By offering *Career Online High School*, we're empowering our residents to seek new opportunities and transform their lives."

The Career Online High School project is funded by the State of Florida and is administered by Smart Horizons and Gale Cengage Learning. "We're delighted to partner with the Northwest Regional Library System 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.

NWRLS awards scholarships for *Career Online High School* to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Once enrolled, *Career Online High School* pairs each student 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. 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 (across a wide spectrum from child care and education to certified transportation), before progressing to the core academic subjects. Students are able to graduate in as few as six months by transferring in previously earned high school credits but are given up to 18 months to complete the program.

Residents can learn more about *Career Online High School* at any branch of the Northwest Regional Library System or by visiting the library's Web site <http://www.nwrls.com/CareerOnlineHighSchool.html>.

For more information or questions, please contact the library at 850-522-2100.

**About Northwest Regional Library System**

The Northwest Regional Library System serves more than 200,000 residents of Bay, Gulf, and Liberty counties. The library's mission is to help, inspire, and empower our communities by providing a dynamic center for learning and a place of discovery for all ages. The public library provides educational opportunities for all ages, including early literacy classes for babies and preschoolers, programs that inspire a love of reading and support the school curriculum, access to computers and emerging technologies, and educational and entertaining events that bring people together.

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