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Santa Cruz Public Libraries Awarded Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants for Workforce Development Programming

Two Grants Totaling \$115,000 Leverage Community Partnerships and Fund Career Development Workshops and One-on-One Career Search Assistance

November 18, 2021 —SANTA CRUZ, CA—The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) have been awarded two Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants to expand career development services. A \$100,000 Collaborative Grant project called the “Santa Cruz Workforce Collaborative” brings together community partners such as the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership’s (MBEP) Workforce Development Initiative, Cabrillo College’s Career Technical Education (CTE), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs, Goodwill Central Coast Career Center, and Your Future is Our Business. The grant funding will support career development workshops for teens and adults in English and Spanish, as well as one-on-one assistance for job seekers in the Downtown Library’s Life Literacies Center. The grant also funds devices and hotspots, transportation to interviews, and MBEP’s [Monterey Bay Career Coach](#) Tool for job seekers.

A second LSTA grant in the amount of \$15,000 creates a formal partnership between the Libraries and the Workforce Development Board of Santa Cruz County. This funding will support education and training for library staff and a Spring Resource Fair for job seekers. Together, these grant funds will help us create low-barrier entry points connecting people to training resources and better jobs.

Career development workshops begin in December and will continue through April. The first workshop, Career Spotlight for Teens is scheduled for 4 p.m. on December 1st. Resume and interview skill workshops will take place at 10 a.m. every 2nd Wednesday of the month starting on December 8th, and at 10 a.m. every 3rd Wednesday of the month in Spanish. Additional topics will also be presented in both English and Spanish throughout the winter and spring of 2022. Dedicated hours and staffing for English/Spanish bilingual career assistance at the Downtown Library’s Life Literacies Center will begin in January 2022.

ABOUT MONTEREY BAY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) is a regional nonprofit member-supported organization consisting of public, private, and civic entities located throughout the counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz. MBEP’s mission is to improve the economic health and quality of life in the region. mbep.biz.

ABOUT THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) delivers information, education, enrichment and inspiration through a network of 10 neighborhood library branches, a web-based digital library, a Bookmobile and community-based programs. SCPL serves children, teens and adults with innovative programming, professional services and community facilities that spark imagination and support discovery. Residents can explore a wide range of interests from academic research, book clubs and literacy programs to digital photography, locally-produced music and local history. Branch locations include Aptos, Boulder Creek, Branciforte, Capitola, Downtown Santa Cruz, Felton, Garfield Park, La Selva Beach, Live Oak and Scotts Valley. Learn more about SCPL at SantaCruzPL.org or via Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter and YouTube.

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