

NEWS RELEASE May 9, 2023

Library Celebrates New Graduates from Career Online High School Program

Have you ever wanted to go back to school? If the cost or inconvenience is holding you back, consider <u>Career Online High School</u>'s accredited program, which offers adults the chance to earn a high school diploma and career certificates for free through Sonoma County Library.

On May 20, Sonoma County Library will celebrate three new graduates: Jeannine, William and Manuel. Jeannine set her education aside for years to raise her family, and with her youngest now in high school, she decided to pursue her own diploma. William was determined to finish the program to attend college. By applying credit from high school, William finished his diploma in 73 days. Manuel works hard to support his family and never thought his dream of finishing high school was possible. After his wife visited the Windsor Regional Library and saw a Career Online High School brochure, Manuel overcame his doubts and dedicated himself to earning his diploma.

"To learn is to be happy," said new graduate Manuel. "I'm grateful to my sons Raul and Abel and my wife Connie for always believing in me. My education victory has made me more prepared and aware, and it feels great to finally say 'I did it!' as a member of the Class of 2023."

Finish high school and receive job training through your local library in a flexible online environment. Career certificates in the Career Online High School program cover high-growth professional fields, including childcare and education, food and hospitality, professional home care, manufacturing, office management, customer service and more. Each Career Online High School student is paired with a professional academic coach to provide ongoing guidance and resources to help them succeed.

"I'm grateful that the library is part of this program," said Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault. "Career Online High School provides enrolled students with the flexibility and coaching they need to create a better future for themselves and their families."

Limited scholarships are available to eligible applicants. Learn more and apply today at sonomalibrary.org/careeronlinehighschool.

No library card? No problem! Come into any branch to get your free library card or create a library eCard online at sonomalibrary.org/get-a-library-card.

For media inquiries, please contact Sonoma County Library Communications Manager Ray Holley at rholley@sonomalibrary.org or 707-755-2014.