

# **JOB CENTER @** **DELAWARE LIBRARIES**

Your free ticket to learning, job resources & more!

Friday, Oct. 14, 2011

## **New library program aids job seekers**

*Job Center@Delaware Libraries helps patrons find information, create resumes, build skills needed to find jobs, start businesses*

Job seekers and career changers in Delaware now have access to a full range of job-seeking services through Job Center@Delaware Libraries, a new program developed by the State Division of Libraries.

The four centers, now open at the Dover Public Library, the Georgetown Public Library, the Seaford Library & Cultural Center and the Wilmington Institute Library, are designed to empower their users by assisting them in finding the information they need and in developing skills that are essential to securing employment.

“With more than 34,000 Delawareans out of work, the state is committed to taking bold, creative steps to help our citizens find jobs,” Gov. Jack Markell said Friday at the official opening of the Dover Job Center. “This new program brings together technology, skilled library personnel, and engaged partners from throughout the public and private sectors to assist our job seekers and career changers.”

“The Job Centers are equipping Delawareans with the tools they need to get back to work or to change careers,” said Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock. “We have already seen the positive effect they have had on numerous people. In some cases, people who took advantage of the resources available there were able to secure a job within days.”

“With additional public access computers, our libraries not only make available today’s tools for finding employment, but we also dedicate trained staff members to helping library patrons make the best use of these tools,” said Annie Norman, State Librarian and director of the state Division of Libraries.

A specially trained coordinator, assisted by a team of volunteers, oversees each Job Center. Job seekers who register at the Job Center will use the new computers at the center to take a self-directed skills assessment that can guide them toward the types of jobs that best match their skills and interests. They will receive help to create a “personal empowerment plan,” a step-by-step approach to finding employment. They will also get

an email address, if needed, and learn basic computer skills, how to search online databases, and how to create a resume, write a cover letter and prepare for interviews.

Job seekers also gain access to a comprehensive software program, Learning Express Library, that includes more than 800 online courses, tests and e-books that provide everything from basic skills improvement from the fourth-grade level and up, through GED testing, as well as practice exams for college and graduate school admissions and professional certifications. Administrators at the Job Centers also provide prospective entrepreneurs the information they need to start a small business.

Each of the four Job Centers is equipped with a videoconferencing unit, 10 laptop computers, two ADA-compliant work stations, new software and databases and more robust internet connections. A program administrator works full-time at each of the four libraries.

Program coordinators are already reporting the successes of job seekers they have helped. For example, in Seaford, a Hispanic woman who earned a college degree in her native country received a referral that led to work teaching evening English as a Second Language classes in Bridgeville. In Georgetown, two men with some experience as construction workers found jobs with contractors in a weatherization program.

The program is being financed by a grant of nearly \$1.9 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), a \$900,000 matching grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and approximately \$100,000 from the State Division of Libraries. The Job Centers were developed through a public/private partnership whose members include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Christina Adult Education Program (CAE), the Delaware Center for Distance Adult Learning (DCDAL), the Delaware Department of Education, the Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO), the Delaware Department of Labor (DOL), Delaware Technical and Community College (DTCC), the Delaware Department of Technology & Information (DTI), the Delaware Workforce Investment Board, Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults (LVSA) and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP).

Job Center locations, phone numbers and hours are:

**Dover**, 45 S. State St., 302-222-8509, Monday 12:30-7 p.m. and Wednesday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Georgetown**, 123 W. Pine St., 302-270-4829, Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Seaford**, 600 N. Market St. Extension, 302-222-3618, Tuesday and Thursday 1-4:30 p.m.

**Wilmington**, 10 E. 10th St., 302-222-8507, Tuesday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Thursday 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information, go to <http://lib.de.us/jobcenter>