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PLA Digital Literacy & Workshop Incentive II

I have been reporting recently on numerous interrelated grant awards received by the collaboration of Delmont Public Library (DPL) and Greensburg Hempfield Area Library (GHAL), in support of two Public Resource Center initiatives (“Digital Literacy & Workforce Development” and “Special Needs: Autism”). Another such award was received on June 20. It was awarded by The Public Library Association (PLA), a Division of the American Library Association (ALA), and is one of more than 200 granted across 45 states with a \$1.27 million contribution from AT&T.

The purpose, according to the ALA’s press release, is to “support public libraries in their work improving digital skills and promoting broadband adoption among families and communities. The workshops leverage online digital literacy courses, created by PLA in collaboration with AT&T, that are freely available to anyone through [DigitalLearn.org](https://www.digitallearn.org) and [AT&T ScreenReady](https://www.atandt.com/screenready).” The workshops offer eight digital literacy technology topics, covering skill development in internet use, video conferencing, cybersecurity, mobile device basics, and more.

“This second cohort is part of an expanded national initiative and collaboration between PLA and AT&T. In 2022, 160 libraries were selected to be part of the PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive, supported by AT&T. The initial group of libraries held more than 1,500 workshops which helped over 8,000 learners build skills and confidence using technology. This new cohort will increase the number of learners libraries can continue to reach.”

DPL and GHAL, collaboratively, were recipients of an award in the first cohort as well.

So, what does this mean for you the patrons of these two WLN Libraries? First, you need not get confused by where all these grants originate, except to know that they collectively represent a strong interest within the ALA and elsewhere to support the purposes of the two Public Resource Centers on which these two collaborating Libraries are focused. Second, it is important to realize that the DPL/GHAL intent is to reach all ages, preK through adult, and the interrelated grant awards do exactly that. They were sought with the purpose of comprehensive programming. The present award is for adults of all ages.

As of the end of May, with Digital Literacy funding, 347 children up to grade 8 have participated in the learning of simple algorithms to program robots. More than 170 adults have received training in the use of their devices for routine services from consultant Gina McGrath. Those are numbers that demonstrate just how much our communities are in need of and value the services being offered by DPL and GHAL through just the one Public Resource Center: Digital Literacy & Workforce Development.

The two Public Resource Centers are in somewhat different stages of introduction to the public, Digital Literacy & Workforce Development about a year ahead of Special Needs:

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Autism, but both are there now for your signing up, either for yourself or for your kids. So, do not hesitate to speak with a librarian about registering to participate.

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