

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Library and Gates Foundation Keep Libraries “Connected” to Internet

SACRAMENTO - Nearly every California library provides Internet access to the hundreds of thousands of Californians who do not have the Internet at home. But keeping-up with evolving technologies on library computers can challenge library staff. Not anymore.

Today, thanks to *Staying Connected*, a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the California State Library, in conjunction with the California State Library Foundation, nearly \$.75 million will go to training library staff to provide long term support for public access computing, a move that will enable customers who need it most to stay connected to the Internet.

Staying Connected is the follow-up grant to a 1997 Gates Foundation grant that, targeting less affluent communities, put 46,000 computers in 11,000 libraries. Staff from *Infopeople*, a LSTA project administered in California by the State Librarian, will do the training work throughout the state.

State Librarian of California, Susan Hildreth, says that *Staying Connected* “will help California libraries and library staff continue to offer their users, particularly those in California’s neediest communities, sustainable access to the wealth of information and services on the Internet.”

To view the Gates Foundation press release on *Staying Connected* go to

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Libraries/USLibraryProgram/Announcements/Announce-050113.htm>.

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