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**BESSEMER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**205-428-7882**

**BESSEMERLIBRARY@GMAIL.COM**

**Regional workforce initiative to launch in libraries, community hubs**

*Bessemer Public Library unveiled its partnership with West AlabamaWorks and Central Six AlabamaWorks, which will connect individuals to in-demand careers.*

Bessemer Public Library is proud to announce its partnership with West AlabamaWorks and Central Six AlabamaWorks to launch of the Career Connect Workforce Initiative! The initiative will allow the library to connect community members to job opportunities available in the region. Resources will be accessible at public libraries and Department of Human Resources offices.

The online Career Connect system will quickly and easily connect individuals to in-demand jobs and training opportunities, fostering upward mobility for Alabama's unemployed and underemployed citizens. Career Connect will also provide access to Alabama Career Center and Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services resources by connecting users to pre-screening and appointment scheduling.

"We're thrilled to bring our Career Connect system to people who need it in a simple, direct way that will help push more individuals to be successful in our workforce," said Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama COO and West AlabamaWorks Executive Director Donny Jones.

By partnering with West AlabamaWorks and Central Six AlabamaWorks, Bessemer Public Library will be able to connect community members with the unique resources the organization can provide. Over 20 employers representing the automotive, healthcare, hospitality and construction industries recruit and hire directly through Career Connect. The Career Connect Workforce Initiative will also help individuals enter free training programs.

Access to Career Connect will be available at new resource kiosks as well as library computer labs throughout the region.

The initiative is funded through the [Appalachian Regional Commission's Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization \(POWER\) grant](#), which is designed to help communities negatively affected by downturn of the coal industry.

For more information, please contact {insert library contact here}. For general questions about West AlabamaWorks, contact Tara Bullock at [tara@tuscaloosachamber.com](mailto:tara@tuscaloosachamber.com). Any additional Career Connect or kiosk questions should be directed to Bob Johnson at [bob@westalabamaworks.com](mailto:bob@westalabamaworks.com).

*About Bessemer Public Library*

*Bessemer Public Library in Bessemer, Alabama seeks to maintain and improve the quality of life for all citizens of our community by providing resources that enhance and contribute to individual knowledge, enlightenment, lifelong learning and enjoyment in the most efficient manner possible. The library also strives to guide young people toward a love of books and other library materials as a means of satisfying their needs and interests. To learn more, visit their [website](#).*

**About West AlabamaWorks**

*West AlabamaWorks is the region's workforce development organization, housed within the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama. Named the Top Workforce Council in 2019 by Gov. Kay Ivey, West AlabamaWorks partners with industries, schools, nonprofit organizations and service providers to put West Alabamians to work. West AlabamaWorks manages the region's federal workforce dollars, under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, and grants training dollars to students, new employees and employers. West AlabamaWorks also organizes the annual Worlds of Work Career Expo. To learn more, visit their [website](#).*