

PRESS RELEASE

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STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT TO INTRODUCE "VIRTUAL WORKFORCE CENTERS" AT LIBRARIES

*Launch is part of Workforce Development Month in
communities statewide*

(DENVER) -- Today, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment announced the introduction of computer workstations called *Virtual Workforce Centers* at more than 40 participating libraries across Colorado. The Virtual Workforce Centers, set to debut in mid-September, will allow library patrons to tap into a wide range of job search resources and information.

"Each Virtual Workforce Center has an interactive screen that makes getting started easy," says Ellen Golombek, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. "We think our customers will find them convenient and user friendly. They will bring most of the services found at our employment offices to job seekers who are increasingly turning to libraries for career exploration and job search activities."

"It's a new world of service delivery for libraries," says Jamie Hollier of the Colorado State Library. "The notion that libraries are simply a quiet sanctuary for reading is out of date. Libraries offer so much more – and the Virtual Workforce Center is a perfect fit for

them. We're excited to be a part of this statewide project." In the months ahead, Virtual Workforce Centers will be available at libraries in both urban and rural areas across Colorado.

Following the launch, the online services and features will be strengthened and enhanced. Plans are in the works for many Virtual Workforce Centers to offer training sessions for job seekers on such topics as how to create a résumé, how to be successful in a job interview and much more. And in some libraries that are a distance from a Workforce Center, Virtual Workforce Centers will even be equipped with a camera, microphone and an ISDN video line that will allow a job counselor to consult one-on-one with job seekers by appointment.

"The technology is a big step forward," Ellen Golombek says. "It is providing us a cost effective way to extend our outreach to customers across Colorado while also ensuring the personal service that has long been our tradition."

The Virtual Workforce Centers are being launched as part of Workforce Development Month, an annual statewide focus on critical workforce development issues. During September, Workforce Centers, led by the Colorado Workforce Development Council and the Department of Labor and Employment will be providing information and services that unite the needs of both workers and employers statewide.

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