

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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[COHS Graduates LaMeeka and Terrance Smith \(image\)](#)

August 27, 2018

**Earn an Accredited High School Diploma for free Through the St. Johns County Library**

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FL — 8/27/18 — The St. Johns County Library System is offering qualified community members the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate for free through *Career Online High School*, a program brought to public libraries by Gale, a Cengage company. *Career Online High School* is specifically designed to reengage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education or the workforce. Currently 8,983 adults in St. Johns County lack a high school degree or equivalent.

Local *Career Online High School* graduate Terrance Smith said, “*Career Online High School* has changed my life tremendously. Getting my diploma was one of my long-term goals as a father, as a husband, and as a mentor in the community. As a mentor, it was hard for me to promote reaching the highest education level possible [without the diploma]. That really changed drastically. Now I can promote that wholeheartedly.”

Asked what he would say to someone considering the program, he said he would tell him/her, “It’s one of the best decisions you’ll ever make.”

The St. Johns County Library System will award scholarships for *Career Online High School* to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Students are able to graduate in as few as six months by transferring in previously earned high school credits but are given up to 18 months to complete the program.

Residents can learn more about *Career Online High School* by visiting the library or the library’s web site <http://www.sjcpls.org/cohs/>. For more information or questions, please contact the library’s *Career Online High School* coordinator, Librarian Michelle Kiley at [mkiley@sjcfl.us](mailto:mkiley@sjcfl.us).

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*The St. Johns County Public Library system serves the community by providing access to technology, facilities, collections, programs and services that help people meet our mission: **Connect, Learn, Enjoy @ Your Library.***

*For more information on the St. Johns County Public Library System, visit [sjcpls.org](http://sjcpls.org).*