



PRESS RELEASE

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Library Receives \$5,000 Donation from Nutrien

Gonzales, LA – Three Ascension Parish residents will soon have the opportunity to complete their high school education, thanks to a generous \$5,000 donation from Nutrien to Ascension Parish Library (APL). The gift will fund three scholarships for residents aged 21 and older to attend Excel Adult High School, an accredited online program offered by APL. The donation will also cover the cost of a laptop for one student who may not have a way to access their classes. Additionally, the remaining money will be used to expand the library's popular Seed Library, a collection of complimentary seeds for library cardholders to start a small backyard garden, to the Donaldsonville branch, scheduled to reopen in the coming months.



Nutrien's Senior Advisor of Community Relations and Investment, Ebonie Raby, says she knows the value of these educational programs and hopes other businesses will also be interested.

"As a company committed to the growth and development of communities, we firmly believe that education is a cornerstone for success," Raby said. "By supporting the APL Excel Adult High School Program, Nutrien is actively contributing to empowering individuals through education, aligned with our mission of Feeding the Future. We are proud to help provide resources and opportunities that foster lifelong learning and community progress."

There is a waitlist of Ascension Parish residents who would like to complete their high school diploma through the library's Excel Adult High School. In June, APL celebrated its first Excel graduate, Dquincy Muse. Muse transferred 15 previously earned high school credits into the program and completed his last 6.5 credits in under two months. He earned a 4.0 in the classes he completed with Excel Adult High. At his ceremony, he said the difference in the library's program was the availability of tutors and one-on-one assistance whenever he needed it. Muse, who owns a local truck company, plans to open a CDL Training school in Ascension Parish. He was previously told that he could not be a CDL instructor without a high school diploma.



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“This program changes lives,” said Carlos Contreras, the library’s adult literacy coordinator overseeing the adult high school program. “This partnership with Nutrien allows us to provide critical support to individuals striving to improve their lives and achieve their dreams.”

Participants must live in Ascension Parish and have an Ascension Parish Library card (free at all library locations). Courses are 100 percent online, allowing students flexible scheduling and personalized support, including unlimited one-on-one tutoring sessions and support from success coaches. Students have 24 months to complete the program.

Nutrien is the second business to join the library’s Partners Advancing Literacy (PAL) program, which invites organizations and individuals to sponsor essential initiatives. Businesses interested in sponsoring a student can email communications@myapl.org. To learn more about Excel Adult High School and other APL sponsorship opportunities, visit myAPL.org/pal.

About APL

Ascension Parish Library (APL) is an award-winning library system committed to providing opportunities for lifelong learning to all ages. APL delivers needed resources through traditional library services, digital materials, and innovative programs. Ascension Parish Library encourages residents to read, learn, and create by visiting their local library. To learn more, visit <https://www.myAPL.org/>.

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