

Upper Skagit Library

www.upperuskagitlibrary.org

info@upperuskagitlibrary.org

chazlyn@upperuskagitlibrary.org (Marketing Specialist)

360.853.7716

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Upper Skagit Library Sponsors Smart Horizons Career Online High School Students

Concrete, WA: The Upper Skagit Library is proud to announce that it is sponsoring students seeking their high school diploma via the Career Online High School Program by Smart Horizons. Adults 19 and older who have not earned an accredited high school diploma or equivalent, who reside in the Upper Skagit Library service district, and have a library account in good standing or are willing to obtain one, are eligible for sponsorship. Applying for the program is simple and can be done via website either at home or at the library. Applicants must choose one of the offered career learning paths, enroll in a prerequisite course, and complete it within two weeks. After that, students will be contacted with information regarding the next steps, which, if accepted into the program, include being matched with a mentor and arranging access to technology needed to complete the course if needed. The program is available in English as well as several other languages. Once the course is completed students will have their high school diploma as well as a certificate in their career path chosen at the beginning of the program, courtesy of [Cognia](#).

So far more than 11,000 students have earned their diploma with Career Online High School, and the Upper Skagit Library is excited to help add more students to that number. Having recently completed a Strategic Planning process where the library reevaluated its vision and mission statements, as well as its values and goals for the upcoming years, the library has identified "Education for All" as one of its core values. Staff members, the Board of Trustees, and those in the community who answered the survey conducted by the library identified increased access to education as a top local need, and the library has doubled-down on its efforts to increase access to materials, programs, and other educational opportunities. Partnering with the Career Online High School to bring education to adults who might not otherwise have access is just the most recent step taken in these efforts to support a community many have identified as underserved in this area. In the Strategic Goals document approved by the Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees in late 2022, the Strategic Planning Committee wrote that the library and its partners "believe that education is important in every stage of life and should always be available to those who need or want it. Education can take many forms and we commit to providing a variety of resources and educational opportunities to learners of all ages and to provide spaces for our community to explore and be creative. We will [support education access] by hosting programs and inviting guest instructors to teach courses free of charge to the community, making educational items available at no cost, demonstrating and encouraging creativity in art and in problem solving, and providing the space and opportunity for accessing information."

To get more information about the sponsorship and the program, those interested can contact the Upper Skagit Library by visiting www.upperskagitlibrary.org, emailing info@upperskagitlibrary.org, calling 360.853.7716, or coming in and speaking with a staff member. Those interested can also visit the following links:

<https://upperskagitlibrary.org/earn-your-high-school-diploma-online/>

<https://smarthorizonsonline.org/high-school-diploma/>

About the Upper Skagit Library: The Upper Skagit Library was formed in 2001 to serve the residents of the rural areas of the Concrete School District. The library opened the doors to its first location in 2005 as a partial-county library district, annexed the Town of Concrete into the library district in 2015, and moved to a new location on Main Street, Concrete in 2021. The library is a key force in serving a community that struggles financially, providing access to written and video materials as well as vital technological services. The library frequently serves as a severe weather shelter, a community meeting place, and a hub for educational programming and classes.

The Upper Skagit Library empowers our community by creating opportunities, fostering connections, and providing resources, while committing ourselves to the highest standards of librarianship. The Upper Skagit Library is committed to serving and inspiring our diverse community. We foster empowerment, leadership, and creativity by providing safe and inclusive spaces and resources. We are dedicated to continuous learning and being open to new points of view, and to encouraging our community to share in that philosophy. The library values education for all, community engagement, stewardship, and fostering a safe, welcome, and open space, and has committed to doing more work in these areas as part of the library's strategic goals for the next three years and beyond.

About Smart Horizons Career Online High School: Smart Horizons Career Online High School (SHCOHS) is part of the world's first accredited private, national online school district. They offer affordable, career-based online high schools that serve adults and young adults who need high school diplomas in order to access better career and educational opportunities. Their mission is to re-engage people in the educational system as a pathway to career advancement and postsecondary education and training. They believe in universal access to accredited, online education that inspires and creates better opportunities and brighter futures. Whether your goal is to get a better job, go to college, or fulfill a lifelong goal, SHCOHS will help you get there!

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