**Project Encompass**

**Building 21st Century Knowledge Communities**

**Vision:** All residents and businesses have the broadband access and digital skills to grow and thrive - building a knowledge community.

**Mission:** To build a community coalition to further 21st Century digital literacy capacity in our community.

**Need:** Digital literacy skills are essential for succeeding in a Web-based world including:

* applying for and getting jobs
* promoting restaurants and other businesses
* doing online business and shopping (online banking, etc.)
* gaining more education
* accessing government services (Social security, veteran services, social services, etc.)
* connecting with with distant family and friends
* finding health information

In nearly every aspect of life, those without Internet access and skills are being left behind in the progressively web-based world. To address this issue, the <name of library> is launching Project Encompass in <town> to bring community leaders together to plan and build a 21st Century knowledge community.

**Background**

In 2011, the <library> received federal funds and grant money to <expand OR establish a new> public computer center in <town>. With <# of computers> and <#of trainings and one-on-one support> the community has gained a valuable asset for residents and business owners to gain access and skills.

<Quotes from those in training or using the computers>

This is just the beginning for <town>. Join us as community leaders who will pool our talent and combine efforts to improve our own organizations while expanding the digital literacy capacity in our community.

**Meeting invitation**

Join Us

<Town or County> community leaders are meeting in a forum called Project Encompass. (See attached). In short, digital literacy is vital to the health and growth of our community, our businesses, and our residents.

Join the forum to

* share what your organizational goals and needs are
* find out what other agencies and organizations are doing
* discover ways to collaborate and share resources
* draw the roadmap for our community’s future

When: <Date, time>

Where: <Location>

Please RSVP to <name, contact> so we can plan food and other logistics.

**Talking points**

Our community needs to act now to keep up with the rapid changes in our competitive world

Digital literacy skills are essential for: (in any order)

* applying for and getting jobs
* promoting restaurants and other businesses
* doing online business and shopping (online banking, etc.)
* gaining more education
* accessing government services (Social security, veteran services, social services, etc.)
* connecting with with distant family and friends
* finding health information

The public computer center has been filled with people seeking access and skills <give one short example>