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THE WORKFORCE CONNECTION RECEIVES \$18,600 GRANT TO ADDRESS DIGITAL DIVIDE

Grant received from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois' Community Grant Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2020 – Rockford, IL: The Workforce Connection – the region's dedicated workforce development organization – received an \$18,600 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) to address the digital divide. Dan Ross, President of CFNIL, says "The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is thrilled to be playing a part in the important work that The Workforce Connection is doing to bridge the digital divide that many in our community experience. It is our sincere hope that these Chromebooks will help individuals attain their goals and build a better future for themselves."

This grant will allow The Workforce Connection to purchase 60 Chromebooks to be distributed to individuals – both adults and youth – to allow those who do not have access to technology the ability to attend online sessions and complete their education or training program. "I remember talking about the digital divide in the 1990's. As much time has passed, and yet we're still talking about it. Providing these Chromebooks and applying for digital equity grants to further this work removes a barrier for the individual so they can be on their path to success," said Dr. Lisa Bly-Jones, Executive Director of The Workforce Connection board.

The Workforce Connection will work with enrolled participants who are required to take their training or education program of study online due to COVID-19 and ensure they receive a Chromebook if the assistance is needed.

About The Workforce Connection

The Workforce Connection is a partnership of state and federally funded employment and training programs and educational entities committed to providing a workforce that meets the needs of our business community, now and in the future. Its American Job Centers are located at 303 N. Main Street, Rockford, 530 S. State Street, Belvidere, and 307 W. Main Street, Freeport.

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