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Rend Lake College gets \$26,000 to improve high-speed Internet

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INA - Rend Lake College's Learning Resource Center has been awarded a \$26,000-grant from Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White to enhance broadband computer access.

The facility is one of 41 Illinois public libraries and community college learning resource centers sharing nearly \$1 million under the "Eliminate the Digital Divide Program Grant." The grant is awarded to the Illinois State Library by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity.

Andrea Witthoft, dean of special programs at RLC, said the funds will be used to provide equipment, training and services for broadband-delivered education, employment and reading services to the unemployed, children, seniors, minorities, persons with disabilities and others.

The grant will be used to provide training classes in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint to improve individuals' basic computer skills, she said. Additional assistance will be provided for community members using Illinois WorkNet, GEDi, Illinois Legal Aid Online and the National Library Service's Talking Book and Braille Service.

For more information, contact Witthoft at 618-437-5321, Ext. 1277, or at witthoft@rlc.edu.