

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Computer Classes for Seniors Offered at Area Libraries through Degenstein Grant

BLOOMSBURG – The regional Atlas Digital Navigator program based out of the Bloomsburg Public Library is offering a free series of technology classes aimed at empowering older adults and others with the skills needed to thrive in today's digital world. The course is taught by Digital Literacy Educator Delia Rincon and supported by DRIVE and the 1994 Charles B. Degenstein Foundation.

The series of five classes begins on February 17 and runs through March 19. Classes are offered at different days and times at the Bloomsburg Public Library, the Thomas Beaver Free Library in Danville, the Milton Public Library, the Degenstein Community Library in Sunbury, and the Rudy Gelnett Memorial Library in Selinsgrove. See the program website at <u>www.atlasdigitalnavigator.org</u> for class times at each location.

The first class, "Getting Started with Computers." Participants will dive into the basics of computers, learn to navigate Microsoft Windows, and utilize essential functions to reduce technology intimidation. This class is ideal for beginners looking to set a strong foundation in their digital learning journey.

The "Internet Connections & Staying Safe Online" class will teach attendees web browsing basics, how to create secure accounts and passwords, and recognize common online fraud and scams. By the end, participants will feel more confident navigating the online world with security and peace of mind.

"Getting Started with Mobile Devices" will help learners master the use of smartphones, tablets, or Kindles, covering everything from setup to making the most of your device's apps. Whether you're a beginner or just refining your skills, this class will keep you connected. The fourth class, "Getting Started with Google and Microsoft Tools" will enable attendees to gain proficiency in Google Drive, Google Docs, and Microsoft Word. Participants will learn to efficiently create, save, and share files, enhancing both personal and professional productivity.

The series concludes with "Creating and Editing Documents and Spreadsheets." This class will advance learners' abilities in Google Docs and Microsoft Excel with skills tailored for effective document and data management, formatting, and collaboration.

Atlas Digital Navigator is designed to guide older adults and others through the basics of technology use, from computers and mobile devices to essential productivity software. This course offers a supportive and engaging environment for beginners to develop their digital literacy and confidence, under the expert and patient guidance of Delia Rincon, who is also able to teach the courses in Spanish.

After teaching the first two courses, Delia reflected, "Most people have been in disbelief that such a complete and instructional computer literacy program is being offered in a public library. I find it very meaningful to assist people in this way, and I believe it is improving their quality of life."

The Bloomsburg Public Library was founded in 1889 and is proud to serve all of Columbia County with our partners, the Columbia County Traveling Library and the Orangeville Public Library. It is the mission of the Bloomsburg Public Library to provide a welcoming, inclusive, and lively environment that inspires and enriches our community through access to materials, resources, innovative programs, and experiences that promote lifelong learning, literacy, and creativity. For more information about the Library, its services, programs, and events, visit the website at bloomsburgpl.org.

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