

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Library Renovation Showcases Commitment to Technology

*City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and National Entrepreneur Center
Director to Speak at Reopening*

City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Jerry Ross, executive director of the Disney/SBA National Entrepreneur Center, will speak on **Wednesday, March 7 at 2 p.m. at re-opening ceremonies for the newly renovated second floor of the Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.** The second floor houses the Computer Resource Center – one of the busiest sections of the library.

Dyer and Ross will talk briefly about the Library's role as a partner in the community's economic development and its efforts to assist small businesses with critical needs through resources for business plan development, financial management, Web site creation, marketing strategies and more. Beyond serving as a resource to small businesses, the library plays an important community role as a technology center, a workforce training center and a resource to job seekers.

The renovations also included the installation of two ELLIS software stations to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population of non-native English speakers. ELLIS is a self-paced, interactive computer-based course that teaches English as a second language. (ELLIS is also available at several library branches too.)

More than 9,000 people come to the downtown library to use computers there each month and 2,300 people use the computers during an average week. When you include usage at the branches, 67,000 people use library computers in an average month.

The Computer Resource Center offers 170 free computer classes each month – on everything from Excel to PowerPoint to creating HTML pages. Several classes are now taught in Spanish and Haitian Creole in addition to English.

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NOTE: If you plan to send a crew, please call 407-835-7480 for special parking arrangements on the library loading dock.