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## News - Gwinnett County Public Library

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*People, Libraries  
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

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## Gwinnett County Public Library

### GCPL Executive Director Receives National Award for Technology and Innovation

The Public Library Association (PLA) has awarded the 2017 John Iliff Award to Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) Executive Director Charles Pace.



The [John Iliff Award](#), sponsored by Innovative, honors the life and accomplishments of John Iliff, early adopter and champion of technology in public libraries. This award provides a \$1,000 honorarium to a library professional or library that has used technology and innovation as a tool to improve services to public library users.

Per a [PLA news release](#), Pace was recognized for his “commitment to customer needs” as he led the implementation of Open+, a system developed by Norcross-based technology supplier Bibliotheca that automatically controls and monitors building access, self-service kiosks, public access computers, lighting, alarms, public announcements, and patron safety.

GCPL became the first library in North America to offer the service when it launched in June of 2016.

Library Board Chairman Dick Goodman applauds Pace’s efforts. “The board of trustees of the Gwinnett County Public Library is proud that Charles is being recognized for his commitment to customer service,” says Goodman. “The implementation of Open+ is one of many innovations Charles has brought to our library system since coming aboard three years ago, with each one greatly enhancing the library experiences of the citizens of Gwinnett County.” Available only at the Lawrenceville Branch, Open+ gives customers self-service access to the library from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. during the week, Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information about Open+, call the Library Help Line at 770-978-5154 or stop by your local branch.

### New Lilburn Branch

This past October, nearly 200 local residents joined Gwinnett County Public Library at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Lilburn



Branch Library. Nearly doubling the size of the old Lilburn Branch at 18,864 square feet, the facility was made possible through a public-public partnership between Gwinnett County and City of Lilburn officials. The building also houses the new Lilburn City Hall.

"The opening of a new library is an important event in the life of community," said Library Board Chairman Dick Goodman. "The library is where we come together as Americans and share who we are and what we know. And here, today, in Lilburn, this new city hall and library cements together knowledge and community in one place. That makes it even more important and more special."

County and city officials came to an agreement to plan the building in 2011 and construction began in June of 2015.

The Lilburn Branch features dedicated children's and teen areas along with multifunctional furniture that can transform spaces to meet the needs of the community. A dedicated Learning Lab also houses a 3D printer, film and music editing software, a green screen, and other creative technology.

### **GCPL Manager Receives National 2016 I Love My Librarian Award**

Elissa Checov, manager of library services at Gwinnett Technical College / Gwinnett County Public Library in Lawrenceville, Georgia, was named a winner of the I Love My Librarian Award. Checov is being recognized for her exceptional contributions to the community and ongoing commitment to transforming lives through education and lifelong learning. She is one of only ten librarians in the country this year to receive this national honor.

Checov is commended for transforming the library into a welcoming hub that meets the needs of the students it serves. Checov started by redesigning library spaces to include teaching and learning labs, commons, and lounge areas. The spaces are more conducive to collaboration and accommodate how students are learning today. Checov



created a one-stop circulation and reference desk model to better assist students using the library. She also designs sessions and workshops to teach information literacy skills to help build students' confidence with the research process.

The school is a commuter campus, and Checov is known for identifying ways the library can engage students with fun and educational activities, including both Poetry and Story Nights. The events have grown to feature more than twenty performances by students, staff, and faculty.

Checov will receive a \$5,000 prize at an award ceremony and reception held this evening in New York City. The ceremony is hosted by Carnegie Corporation of New York, which co-sponsors the award along with The New York Public Library and The New York Times. The American Library Association administers the award through its Public Awareness Office, which promotes the value of libraries and librarians.

As part of the award process, the public is invited to nominate their favorite librarians working in public, school, college, community college, and university libraries. This year nearly 1,100 nominations were submitted by library users detailing how librarians connected them to information, opportunities, and critical technology to help improve the quality of their lives.

There are a total of 166,000 librarians in the United States who are experts in helping people access information and resources they need to succeed in today's digital age. Librarians are continually working to meet the changing needs of the library users and communities they serve.

This year's award recipients included three academic librarians, four public librarians and three school librarians. A complete list of the 2016 I Love My Librarian Award recipients can be found at [lovelibraries.org/ilovemylibrarian](http://lovelibraries.org/ilovemylibrarian).

### **GCPL Expanded Open+ Hours to the Weekend Beginning December 10, 2016**

Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) expanded Open+ hours at the Lawrenceville Branch beginning December 10, 2016. The service, which gives customers self-service access to the Library from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. during the week, will expand to Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Open+, a system developed by Norcross-based technology supplier Bibliotheca, is a complete



solution that automatically controls and monitors building access, self-service kiosks, public access computers, lighting, alarms, public announcements, and patron safety. The service was launched in June 2016.

Customers who are eighteen years of age or older and hold a library card in good standing may register for Open+ at any of GCPL's fifteen branches for a \$5.00 fee. Upon arrival, customers will insert their own library card into a reader at the entrance, enter a pin, and gain access to library resources.

For more information about Open+, call the Library Help Line at 770-978-5154 or stop by your local branch.

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Gwinnett County Public Library is a free provider of education and information. Located in Metro Atlanta, the Library has fifteen branches that offer free access to computers and Wi-Fi, classes, materials, and programming for people of all ages. For more information about Gwinnett County Public Library programs and services, visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).