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News - Gwinnett County Public Library

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

Gwinnett County Public Library



Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) has been recognized as a leading area organization by becoming a finalist for an IMPACT Regional Business Award.

Designed to be reflective and unique to Gwinnett and across metro Atlanta, the program pays tribute to premier organizations in top industries that are driving economic development and job creation, while enhancing our quality of life.

“GCPL is pleased to be recognized as a finalist for the IMPACT Award,” says GCPL Executive Director Charles Pace. “This is a testament of the broad reach and deep community involvement of our dedicated staff members.”

Recipients will be selected in the following sectors:

- AEC (Architecture, Engineering & Construction)
- Education
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- International
- Nonprofit

- Service
- Small Business

“Bringing together leaders across these important industries is another example of how the Gwinnett Chamber can fulfill its mission to serve as a community forum,” said Dr. Dan Kaufman, President & CEO of the Gwinnett Chamber. “We are honored to provide a platform that showcases these excelling organizations, which are what makes the metro region a leader in so many areas.”

The awards ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at the Infinite Energy Forum.

An overall IMPACT Regional Business Awards recipient will be selected from one of the above category winners.



Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) will soon launch Connect Gwinnett, a new and innovative initiative that will allow customers to check out WiFi hotspots from the library. The program helps expand the library’s efforts to increase access to technology and information throughout Gwinnett County.

Customers can begin checking out a Connect Gwinnett WiFi kit, which includes a T-Mobile 4G

LTE wireless hotspot, USB cable, and wall charger, on Monday, April 24, 2017.

Each kit requires a Full Access or Branch Out library card and may be checked out for three weeks at a time. The hotspots do not renew.

“The WiFi hotspot lending program is part of GCPL's effort to bridge the digital divide in Gwinnett County,” says GCPL Executive Charles Pace. “Up to 30 percent of households in the county do not have access to the internet at home and this is one step towards creating a more equitable distribution of online resources in our community.”

“High-speed, reliable broadband is a necessity, not a luxury,” says GCPL Director of Customer Experience Michael Casey. “This is about helping a student access the online resources she needs to get the grades required to attend college, and giving an entrepreneur the connectivity he requires to develop his business plan to bring new, high-tech jobs to Gwinnett.”

“T-Mobile is committed to connecting the local community,” says T-Mobile representative James Maleiko. “The internet hotspot check out program allows mobile internet service to be checked out the same way a book or DVD is checked out. I am personally very excited to partner with Gwinnett County Library System on such an important community initiative.”

For more information about Connect Gwinnett, visit www.gwinnettpl.org/connect.

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Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) hosted Dr. Robert M. Howard for “The Changing Face of Politics: Gwinnett’s 2016 Voting Patterns” on April 23, 2017 at the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center.



Attendees joined GCPL and Dr. Howard for coffee, questions, and a fascinating discussion on politics in Gwinnett County following the 2016 US presidential election.

Dr. Howard is a professor of political science at Georgia State University in Atlanta and the executive director of the Southern Political Science Association. He is the author of numerous articles and books including, *Judging Law and Policy: Courts and Policymaking in the American Political System*; *Getting a Poor Return: Courts, Justice and Taxes*; and the co-author of the latest edition of *Politics in Georgia*.



Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) has been awarded a 2017 Top Workplaces, Workplace Achiever honor by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC). The Top Workplaces lists are based solely on the results of an employee feedback survey administered by WorkplaceDynamic, LLC, a leading research firm that specializes in organizational health and workplace improvement. The survey measured several aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution, and connection, just to name a few.

“We are very pleased to receive this acknowledgment from the AJC,” says library Executive Director Charles Pace. “GCPL's employees are our greatest resource and their continued satisfaction with their working conditions as demonstrated by this survey is very important to our overall efforts to maintain an effective library program.”

“The Top Workplaces award is not a popularity contest. And oftentimes, people assume it's all about fancy perks and benefits,” says Doug Claffey, CEO of WorkplaceDynamics. “But to be a Top Workplace, organizations must meet our strict standards for organizational health. And who better to ask about work life than the people who live the culture every day—the employees. Time and time again, our research has proven that what's important to them is a strong belief in where the organization is headed, how it's going to get there, and the feeling that everyone is in it together.”

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Gwinnett County Public Library and Gwinnett Legal Aid, an office of Atlanta Legal Aid, hosted Lawyers in the Library on March 28, 2017, at the Buford-Sugar Hill Branch and April 1, 2017, at the Five Forks Branch.

Gwinnett Legal Aid, an organization that helps low-income people meet basic needs through free civil legal services and legal education, lead information sessions that helped residents learn about the free resources available to them.

In 2016, Gwinnett Legal Aid helped 2,375 clients with matters pertaining to the necessities of life—food, shelter, housing, safety, and access to health and educational services.

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Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) will soon launch Treehouse, an online tool that brings technology education to people in order to help



them achieve their dreams and change the world.

Treehouse offers over 1000 videos created by expert teachers on web design, coding, business, and more.

Once enrolled, students can learn how to build a website or mobile app, code, or how to get a business off on the right foot with coursework that includes corporate structure, marketing, and finance.

Students can practice what they've learned through quizzes and interactive Code Challenges and earn badges as they journey through an extensive library of courses.

“Seven million job openings in 2015 were in occupations that required coding skills,” says GCPL Director of Customer Experience Michael Casey. “Gwinnett County Public Library is excited to offer many tools, including Treehouse, that can help our citizens grow into careers in those fields.”

Treehouse seats are limited. Library card holders can apply at gwinnettpl.org/treehouse.



Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) now offers customers access to Beanstack, a customized online portal designed to engage families with young readers and to facilitate the library's summer reading program.

Beanstack starts with sending parents a weekly recommendation of a book and event at your local library, matched to each child's interests. Parents are also provided tools for building literacy, including learning tracks that are like step-by-step guides through subjects like "A Guide to Reading Readiness," "Ninjas," and "Surviving Family Car Trips." As families log their reading and complete literacy activities, they earn badges that encourage them to visit their local branch.

Customers can create Beanstack accounts, get emailed recommendations, log their reading, and register children for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. Beginning May 5, 2017,

customers will be able to register for the Summer Reading Program, earn incentives for book clubs, and more.

"It's easy and fun to keep track of reading online using Beanstack," says Youth Services Manager Amy Billings. "We hope that the excitement of earning badges and prizes along the way will help motivate children and teens to track their reading on their computer or mobile device, explore our digital resources, and encourage visits to library branches for books, services, programs, and more."

To sign up and learn more about Beanstack, visit gwinnettpl.beanstack.org.