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HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES INNOVATION LAB AT ABINGDON LIBRARY

Rosedale Federal \$25,000 grant for project

(Belcamp, Maryland - September 30, 2014) Harford County Public Library is pleased to announce a \$25,000 grant from Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association to develop an Innovation Lab at the Abingdon Library.

The Innovation Lab will be a "maker space," providing an area for hands-on or do-it-yourself learning in video production, self-publishing and 3-D printing. It will offer library customers access to three Apple iMac desktop computers, sophisticated software, a green screen, and two 3-D printers. In addition, hands-on workshops, training and programming will be offered throughout the year.

"We are honored to partner with Rosedale Federal to offer this exciting resource to our community," said Mary Hastler, CEO of Harford County Public Library. "The Innovation Lab is an investment in our future. Rosedale Federal's long-term commitment will ensure it will grow and inspire children, teens, and entrepreneurs for many years to come."

Expected to open in mid-December, the full installation of the Innovation Lab will be a multi-year project, with new technology and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) resources added each year over the next five years. The Friends of the Abingdon Library are also contributing \$5,000 to the project, which has an estimated cost of \$30,000.

As a community workspace, the Innovation Lab will bring together people interested in computers, engineering, technology, science and digital design where they can meet, learn and collaborate. The lab will be designed for ages 11 and up but may also be used by younger children during age-appropriate programs.

“We are pleased to sponsor Harford County Public Library’s Innovation Lab,” says Thomas S. Wintz Sr., President and CEO of Rosedale Federal. “For over 106 years, community has been at the heart of what we do every day. We share a mission with the Library to provide safe, high quality, excellent service and education to the community. So this ongoing Library initiative is a perfect fit. ”

Harford County Public Library has developed a national reputation for innovation through programs like *LEAP* (Learn, Explore, and Play), *Little Leapers*, *Little Leapers 3.5* and for its 3-D printing initiatives. Harford County Public Library is also a leader in introducing emerging technologies and initiatives to the public and is a sought-after partner for organizations interested in collaborating with individuals, families, entrepreneurs and businesses in Harford County.

Harford County Public Library operates eleven branches located throughout Harford County, Maryland. The library serves over 191,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of over 4.1 million. Harford County Public Library is committed to connecting people with information and promoting the love of reading within the community.

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