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1221-A Brass Mill Road 21017 • HCPLonline.org
410-273-5600, 410-575-6761 • Fax: 410-273-5606

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Leslie Greenly Smith
Harford County Public Library
410-273-5707
smithl@hcplonline.org
HCPLonline.org

Harford County Public Library Receives The Daily Record's Innovator of the Year Award for the Fourth Time

Baltimore, Md., October 19, 2017 — *The Daily Record* presented the Innovator of the Year Award to Harford County Public Library at a reception and dinner in Baltimore on October 18. Harford County Public Library was one of 26 organizations presented with the award in 2017. It was the fourth time the library received this honor.

The Daily Record began the Innovator of the Year awards in 2002 as a way to recognize Marylanders and Maryland-based companies for their innovative spirit – for creating new products, new programs, new services or new processes that have helped their companies, industries or communities.

For this year's honorees, their innovative achievements took place between January 2016 and July 2017. Innovator of the Year nominees were asked to complete an application that explained their innovation and the impact it has made on Maryland. The nominations were judged on four basic criteria: originality, power, challenge and value.

Specifically, Harford County Public Library was honored for the new Children's Department at the Bel Air Library. Geared toward those from birth to middle school, the Children's Department features a NatureMaker Tree, an Innovation Lab-type area for middle schoolers called StreamWorks, plus a town square with a Harford County heritage focus, a reading garden and story time pagoda, tech bar, camp fire, enhanced collections, comfortable reading areas and more.

Harford County Public Library was honored with an Innovator of the Year Award for Little Leapers (2013), Little Leapers 3.5 (2014) and the Innovation Lab (2015).

"We are so honored to be named an Innovator of the Year for the fourth time," said Mary Hastler, CEO of Harford County Public Library. "This award is possible because of the collaboration of our amazing library staff. Our goal for the library is always to provide innovative, unique and educational offerings to our customers."

Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, publisher of *The Daily Record*, said "Innovators are constantly creating, improving and creating again. They make a huge difference in people's lives, in the economy and in the success of our region. *The Daily Record* is pleased to recognize this year's Innovators of the Year and their passion, creativity and drive that result in new products and processes that have a positive impact on Maryland and beyond."

Harford County Public Library operates 11 branches located throughout Harford County. The library serves more than 194,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of more than 4.7 million. Harford County Public Library is committed to connecting people with information and promoting the love of reading in the community. For more information, visit hcplonline.org.

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