

Library's ONE Access™ program with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools a finalist for a technology and innovation award

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Charlotte Mecklenburg Library has been named one of three finalists in the nonprofit category for the prestigious Blue Diamond Award. The annual award recognizes top technology talent and companies in the region.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) officials nominated the Library for its creative use of technology to increase student access and eliminate barriers. Rather than creating a separate Library account, ONE Access™ allows students to use their CMS student ID number to access Library resources. The experience for students and their families is seamless, and provides access in the classroom or at home.

Educational Partnerships Coordinator Martha Yesowitch led the effort, along with CMS staff. "The success of this program never ceases to amaze me. Due to the hard work of several individuals, we were able to meet and exceed our program goals."

Today, more than 142,000 students have used their accounts in the classroom, in libraries or from home. In year two, the initiative expanded to CMS teachers, giving them “e-card” accounts and the ability to access online resources for classrooms. It also expanded to include a hotspot lending pilot for 150 students with no other access to home internet, giving them equal opportunities to complete school assignments at home.

“Every time a student or teacher receives needed information from the Library, we improve lives and build a stronger community,” says Library CEO Lee Keesler. “We’re honored to be recognized.”

Blue Diamond winners will be announced at a celebration on Tuesday, April 4 at the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

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About the Blue Diamond Awards

The annual [Blue Diamond](#) award is presented by the Charlotte Area Technology Collaboration (formerly IT-oLogy Charlotte) in partnership with the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, recognize top technology talent and companies in the region.

About the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

[Charlotte Mecklenburg Library](#) is one of America’s leading urban public libraries, serving a community of over one million residents in Mecklenburg County, NC. Accessible and welcoming to all, the Library celebrates the joy of reading, fosters learning and growth, connects people to each other and the world, and inspires individuals with what they can achieve.