

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence in Education

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



75

HCLS' *Diamond Anniversary*

An award-winning educational institution that ranks among the finest in the nation, Howard County Library System's (HCLS) roots date back to 1940. Visionary leaders and an incredibly supportive Howard County community have guided HCLS over the decades. These architects diligently focused on making first-rate education available to all, regardless of age, background, or means.



MILLER BRANCH STAFF

To celebrate our 75th anniversary, we planned a year of celebrations beginning at Evening in the Stacks and continuing with a feature insert in the *Howard County Times*, *Columbia Flier*, and *Laurel Leader*; limited edition library cards; selfie contests; a commemorative cookbook; and other events.

Our mission and vision continue the traditions of our past and make HCLS a crucial element of the modern community.

- ♦ **Vision:** A vital component of Howard County's renowned education system, we deliver excellence in education for everyone, advancing the economy and quality of life.
- ♦ **Mission:** We deliver high-quality public education for all ages.



SELF-DIRECTED EDUCATION

and electronic formats; and thousands of online research tools

- ♦ Enrolled 31,000 students of all ages in Summer Reading and attracted a record-setting 5,200 people to Summer Reading Kickoff
- ♦ Added MUZZY Online, World Vital Records, Freegal Music, and Beanstack to HCLS Now!

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE &



NAME HERE



INFORMATION through vast collections of items in print, audio
tools (e.g., Wall Street Journal, Access Science)

Launched redesigned HCLS web site

Opened second passport center - passport applications are now processed at our East Columbia and Glenwood Branches.

INSTRUCTION for individuals and groups

This pillar includes classes, seminars and workshops for all ages, taught by HCLS instructors.

Expanded curriculum at HiTech, STEM education initiative for teens.

Hosted notable authors for children, teens, and adults: Ned Tillman, Dr. Neal Barnard, Dr. Majid Fotuhi, Scott Stossel, Brigid Schulte, Jonathan Axier, Kate Milford, Aaron Starmer, and Marc Tyler Nobleman.

Partnered with Red Branch Theatre and Clarks Elioak Farm for Frog and Toad and Goats Are Kids, Too! children's classes.

Featured portraits of local veterans and their families as part of our Salute to Veterans exhibit in conjunction with the WWI Centennial Commemoration.



EVENING IN THE STACKS FEATURE AUTHOR
J. COURTNEY SULLIVAN

INSTRUCTIVE & ENLIGHTENING EXPERIENCES

through cultural and community center concepts, events, and partnerships – such as A+ Partners in Education, Well & Wise, and Choose Civility

- ◆ Raised a record \$105,000 at Evening in the Stacks: Black Ties | White Diamonds that featured *New York Times* bestselling author J. Courtney Sullivan
- ◆ Debuted ComicCon: Rise of the Heroes.
- ◆ Certified Enchanted Garden as an official Monarch Butterfly Waystation by Monarch Watch.
- ◆ Focused on Civility in Sports as part of Choose Civility.
- ◆ Soccer Association of Columbia adopted new Choose Sportsmanship component.
- ◆ Continued Well & Wise partnership with Howard County General Hospital: A Member of Johns Hopkins Medicine.
- ◆ Partnered with Howard County Arts Council to display public art sculptures for a one-year exhibit at three branches.

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ENCHANTED GARDEN – MONARCH BUTTERFLY CLASS



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

♦ A+ Partners in Education:

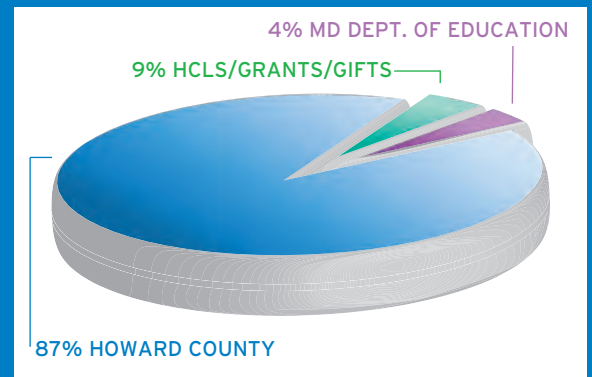
- ❖ HCLS Bumblebee Celebration hailed 33 first, second, and third students from 16 schools.
- ❖ HCLS Spelling Bee featured 64 contestants who represented 55 public schools, eight private schools, and one home school association. Lauren Smith, sixth grade student at Bethel Christian Academy advanced to the National Spelling Bee.
- ❖ Battle of the Books attracted 236 teams of fifth grade students (1,200 - or one-third of all Howard County fifth graders) at five venues.
- ❖ HCLS Rube Goldberg Challenge drew a record 71 teams of fourth and fifth grade students from 25 HCPSS elementary schools and one homeschool. The challenge? Crush and recycle an empty soft drink can.



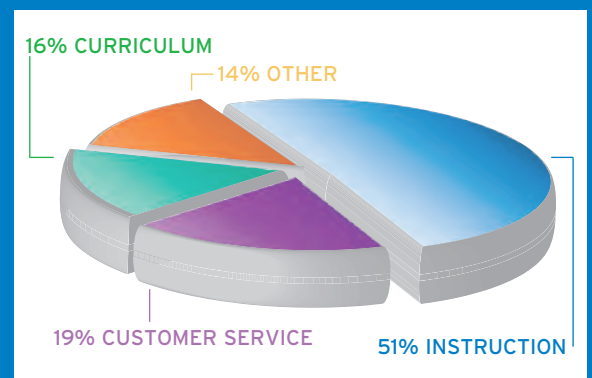


STATISTICS

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



Visits: 3 million

Borrowing: 7.3 million items – the highest borrowing per capita in the state and among the highest in the country.

Research assistance: 2 million

Attendance at classes and events: 306,000 – a 16 percent increase over the previous year, and the highest participation level in Maryland.

Complete statistics at hclibrary.org.

DONORS

See hclibrary.org.



AWARDS

- ♦ For the fifth consecutive year, HCLS is ranked a Five-Star library system by *Library Journal*. This highest ranking is attained by fewer than one percent of public libraries in the U.S. HCLS is the only library system in Maryland to be awarded Five-Star status.
- ♦ HCLS won the Hermes Gold Award from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals for the cover of *source's* spring issue.

BUILDING PROJECTS

- ♦ Re-opened a greatly expanded and renovated HCLS Savage Branch + STEM Education Center with a crowd of 3,000 excited community leaders and members in attendance. Doubled in size to 24,000 sq. ft., the branch centers on science and technology, with three times the space for classes, state-of-the-art equipment, and an outdoor environmental instruction lab.
- ♦ Kicked off expansion plans for much needed public space at the HCLS Central and East Columbia Branches.

Customer Comments

Your team is impressive, the extent of your outreach is impressive and the curriculum variety is impressive. I was reminded, once again, of how fortunate we are to live in a community with a resource as rich as the one you and your colleagues have grown.

HCLS – The best thing in Howard County!

I love the library. Of all the cities we have lived in this is the best.