

Public Libraries are Learning Leaders

Find out more at the [Families Learning Summit!](#)

In the digital age, learning is a fundamentally different – and more enriching – experience than ever before. Learning today occurs at any time, any place, and at any pace. To accommodate this change, public libraries are in the midst of a transformative shift to meet people’s learning needs at all ages and stages of life.

Today’s libraries are dynamic centers of 21st century learning, pioneering new models for active, participatory learning that help people acquire new skills, access information, consume and create knowledge. For millions of people, libraries are the gateway to the digital universe – a place where people learn how to use technology to achieve their goals in life.

Libraries everywhere are building digital media labs and “maker spaces” where people gather to imagine and invent. Libraries offer cutting-edge STEM learning experiences and are key providers of high-octane summer learning opportunities that help children succeed in school.

Libraries today not only provide learning programs and services, they are also a vital partner in a community’s learning ecosystem. For example, in Virginia’s capital city, the Richmond Public Library is the lead agency for the community’s Campaign for Grade Level Reading, which includes early childhood learning and parent engagement as a critical lever to ensure school readiness and the ability to achieve learning goals.

The [Urban Libraries Council](#) is an association that includes over 135 of North America’s leading public library systems. With the help of our members, ULC strategically advances the value that 21st century libraries provide communities in critical areas such as education, lifelong learning, workforce and economic development, public safety, health and wellness, and environmental sustainability.

In the spirit of partnership, ULC also builds bridges between public libraries and related fields that are dedicated to helping people lead productive lives.

And, we’re especially looking forward to the session we’ll be presenting during the Families Learning Summit (Feb. 17-19) as a part of growing partnership with the [National Center for Families Learning](#). On Tuesday, February 18, find out how libraries are innovating and leading learning partnerships in a digital age. This discussion will feature Harriet Coalter, Director of the Richmond Public Library and Jennifer Giltrop, Director of Public Services from the D.C. Public Library in conversation with the Urban Libraries Council.

And, don’t wait until then to find out more! Check out the ULC website (www.urbanlibraries.org); visit us on Facebook and Twitter; [download our publication](#), Libraries Igniting Learning, and visit our [Innovations Resource Center](#).