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PRESS RELEASE

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GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NORTH AMERICAN INNOVATION AWARD

December 17, 2025 - Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) proudly celebrates being named a Top Innovator for 2025 by the Urban Libraries Council (ULC), North America's leading nonprofit for urban libraries. GCPL received this honor for its new Hooper-Renwick Themed Library in Lawrenceville, which champions equity and inclusion.

"We are thrilled and deeply honored to receive this prestigious award from the Urban Libraries Council. In a period when libraries face renewed challenges, awards like this truly affirm our mission and service to the community," said Charles Pace, Executive Director of Gwinnett County Public Library.

Through a 2020 agreement, the county and city, with input from former students, committed to restoring and honoring the county's only African American high school prior to desegregation. The new library features memorabilia, special collections, and enhanced programs, creating a modern hub that positively impacts the community's assets.

"Hooper-Renwick Library represents a unique project in the state of Georgia and possibly anywhere in the southeast. We hope to inspire others to explore their own lesser-known history and to highlight marginalized groups," added Pace.

ULC's Innovations Initiative is a yearly showcase of exemplary projects from its nearly 200 member libraries across the U.S. and Canada. It seeks to highlight how the library's role as an essential public institution is evolving to meet the changing needs of our urban communities. From initiatives that promote civic engagement and intellectual freedom to projects that

enhance digital connectivity and economic mobility, libraries are at the forefront of addressing today's challenges.

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