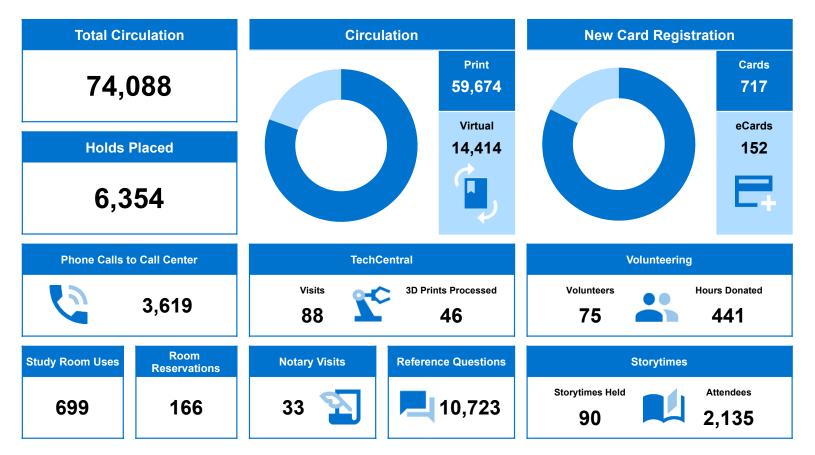


# Monthly Report February 2022

Fiscal Year Oct. 2021 - Sept. 2022

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	15,041	13,671	61,341	60 Events & Activities, 691 Participants
St. Cloud	18,255	8,142	16,066	75 Events & Activities, 1,381 Participants
Poinciana	7,936	7,878	27,551	44 Events & Activities, 670 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	5,090	4,837	16,218	48 Events & Activities, 625 Participants
West Osceola	13,195	8,337	21,620	61 Events & Activities, 957 Participants
Kenansville	157	112	2,921	N/A

#### System Stats at a Glance



# **Celebrating Black History Month**

February is Black History Month and the Osceola Library System planned and presented programs that highlighted how Black Americans have made unique and enduring impact on the arts and sciences, societal and historical change, and community connections.

Highlights included:

- Civil Rights Activist Diane Nash (part of the Walking Library): 33 attendees gathered together at the St. Cloud Library to learn about the essential contributions of student sit-in organizer, Freedom Rider and founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Diane Nash, then explored downtown St. Cloud in honor of her role in organizing the walking protest of the Civil Rights movement.
- History of African Jewelry Making: 28 attendees learned the cultural and artistic significance of African beadwork techniques and left with their very own wood bead bracelet.
- African American Read-In: Local artists and authors explored the cultural and artistic impact of Black Americans through the reading of poetry, literature and other spoken word arts in this event in partnership with the City of Kissimmee. The Library helped with hosting duties and provided free copies of books by Black authors for children and adults.

## First CARES-funded COHS graduate

The Osceola Library System held a ceremony for its first graduate of the CARES Actfunded Career Online High School program. Tammy Putnam enrolled in the program in May 2021 having dropped out of high school in the 10th grade. She worked two jobs to take care of her family and eventually found employment with a local company building fiberglass boats. To progress higher in her company, she needed to complete her high school education. She found the online COHS program to be a convenient way to achieve her diploma while maintaining her job and taking care of her family. Dressed in a cap and gown provided by the Library, Tammy received her diploma alongside her children, husband and mother-in-law as they celebrated her accomplishment. TechCentral staff filmed a video and shot photos to aid the Library in promoting the COHS program.



### **ARPA-funded AWE stations debut**

With funds provided by the American Rescue Plan, the Library purchased 11 AWE Learning stations for all 6 libraries in an effort to help slow learning losses endured by students during the COVID pandemic. The workstations are designed to engage students ages 2 up to 12 in learning activities to enhance language, literacy, math, and science skills in English, Spanish and French. The stand-alone workstations use games, music, color, and fun characters with age-appropriate content to improve academic achievement and enhance school readiness. Additional ARPA funds will be expended on STEAM kits and Launchpad tablets to compliment the AWE stations with the goal of providing additional tools to combat learning losses documented during the COVID pandemic.

### **Other February highlights:**

**Museum Art Kits:** The Library has again partnered with the Rollins Museum of Art to distribute and promote the Museum Art Kits. Kits were available at our Hart Memorial, Poinciana and West Osceola Libraries. The Library promoted on social media and the kits are always a hit.

American Sign Language for Beginners: This popular multi-week course kicked off in February at the Hart Memorial Library. The program provides a basic introduction to ASL taught by deaf instructors through Library partners ASL Services. 146 students attended these workshops in February.

**Spread the Sweetness**: Nutella was the star of the day at this West Osceola Library program that celebrated the delicious hazelnut spread through a history lesson and some taste-testing. 13 people attended.

**PBS KIDS Time:** We continued our partnership with PBS affiliate WUCF with these online storytimes in English and Spanish that also feature at home crafts to follow along. These virtual programs reached 187 kids and parents.

**Intermediate Guitar:** After the success of Beginning Guitar at the Hart Memorial Library, this multi-week TechCentral class takes participants farther into their guitar journey. 19 people participated in February.





Left: The Library partnered with the City of Kissimmee to present the African American Read-In event, part of a national effort to elevate Black voices through literature



**Above:** Each Library received AWE literacy workstations as part of an ARPAfunded grant designed to add literacy and learning tools to help learning losses associate with online learning and the COVID pandemic.





Left: Tammy Putnam is the Library's first Career Online High School graduate from the CARES-funded program. Her school diploma will help unlock doors to promotional opportunities with her employer and helped her achieve her educational goals conveniently.

**Below:** The art of African bead work is explored in this hands-on program for families where participants made beautiful beaded bracelets.



