



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Willimantic Public Library is pleased and proud to announce that they are one of just 60 libraries nationwide to have been selected to be part of NASA@ My Library, an education initiative created to increase and enhance STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) learning opportunities for library patrons. As the only Connecticut library selected, we look forward to introducing STEAM concepts to our younger patrons and to exploring the universe together with people of all ages during our public programs in 2021 and 2022.

As a NASA@ My Library Partner, the Willimantic Public Library will hold public programs that explore NASA science and technology, specifically around NASA's newest next-generation telescope launch (fall 2021), the first telescope images (spring 2022), and as part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program (summer 2022). The library will collaborate with Natchaug School and Eastern Connecticut State University to facilitate this programming. More information will be available in the coming months at willimanticlibrary.org.

As part of this initiative, the library will receive training and resources to implement NASA events and programming, access to a university Subject Matter Expert (SME) to support patron engagement, and \$1,600 for programming expenses.

Frances McGrath, Youth Services Librarian, helped write the grant application and will help coordinate programming, publicity, and events; Lisa Clymer, Library Technical Assistant in the Youth Services Department, will serve as Project Director. Clymer has long been passionate about space. Both McGrath and Clymer are absolutely thrilled by the possibilities presented by NASA STEAM programming and activities and cannot wait to share with the community their excitement and passion for the story, science and adventure of NASA's scientific explorations.

NASA@ My Library is offered by the National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) at the Space Science Institute (SSI) in partnership with the ALA Public Programs Office, Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI) and Education Development Center (EDC).