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## **Harford County Education Foundation Partners with Sponsors to Improve Digital Inequity for Local Students**

**Harford County, MD** – Harford County Education Foundation and their sponsors partnered to improve the digital inequity for low-income students across Harford County and provide digital access at home.

On December 10 at 9:30 a.m., the Foundation, and their sponsors presented 10 of the 40 laptops they are providing to Magnolia Middle School as well as the digital lending hubs they are gifting to three additional schools.

Harford County Education Foundation received the 40 laptops from a local IT recycling company, HiTECH Assets, who turns data destruction and server disposal into a secure, sustainable process.

“We’re proud to have been able to obtain Dell laptops and outfit them at a significantly discounted rate,” shared Keith Phoebus, Business Development Manager at HiTECH Assets. “This will allow students in Harford County access to technology that will help them become more successful in school.”

For many low-income students, having Internet or owning a tablet or laptop is simply not a reality. As more homework assignments require web access, having the digital tools at home is important in preventing students from falling behind their peers.

“Technology is such an integrated part of our society, that students who do not have access can be at a disadvantage academically, socially, and financially,” said Debora Gavin Merlock, President at the Harford County Education Foundation. “We are incredibly honored to partner with our sponsors and increase the technological impact we have on our students.”

Harford County Education Foundation works with the local community to bring critical resources to help students succeed in their academic and personal goals through middle and high school leadership programs, college and career mentoring, scholarships, free schools supplies for low-income students, and grants.

Through Harford County Education Foundation’s Tech Tools initiative, the 32% of Harford County Public School students who reside in low-income households will have improved access to quality learning experiences.

Harford County Education Foundation and this initiative is sponsored by The Albert P. Close Foundation, Bravura Information Technology Systems, HiTECH Assets, Oak Contracting LLC, The Women’s Giving Circle of Harford County, the Dart Foundation, and Chesapeake Environmental Management.

### **About Harford County Education Foundation**

Harford County Education Foundation invests in the education of 37,000 youth in Harford County Public Schools by providing programs and resources to complement the learning and growth of each student regardless of their economic circumstances. The Education Foundation works in partnership with the community to bring critical resources to help students succeed in their academic and personal goals through middle and high school leadership programs, college and career mentoring, scholarships, free school supplies for low-income students, technology to increase digital access at home, grants to support

innovative classroom instruction and celebrating the education profession with the community. Visit [www.harfordeducation.org](http://www.harfordeducation.org) to learn more.

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Seated L-R: Linda Bugliosi, Lamar Watts, Demetrius Cabell, Kendrick Williams, Joshua Steinmiller, Erin Mock

Standing L-R: Michael Quigg, Xavian Waters, Keith Phoebus, Deb Merlock, Joe Voskuhl, Drew Moore, Warren Hamilton, Beth Walter, Kirstie Durr, Lamark Holley, Jamira Walker, Desiree Erdman.



Jamira Walker and Xavian Waters, Magnolia Middle School

