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Library Launches Virtual Reality Career Exploration

MCPL's Square One Small Business Center Rolls Out New Resource for Career Seekers

Kansas City, MO – Beginning this month, Mid-Continent Public Library's Square One Small Business and Career Center team will offer a tech-savvy new resource for metro residents looking to explore new career paths. Funded by a grant from the Kauffman Foundation, the Square One team will begin offering appointments to use a virtual reality headset that simulates a workday in a wide variety of professions—from aviation mechanics and engineering to veterinary medicine.

“We’re very excited about this new initiative and hope it will help broaden job seekers’ perspectives of what a new career might look like,” said Square One Director Ashley Muffitt. “One of the benefits of these virtual reality simulations is that they allow job seekers to experience professions that they might not otherwise be exposed to. While an in-person experience would certainly provide the fullest picture, not everyone has the means or resources to pursue these opportunities, which is why VR is such a great tool. Users can explore many different careers from the comfort of their local library.”

For those interested in utilizing MCPL's Virtual Reality Career Simulation, they can contact Square One directly at squareone@mymcpl.org for a one-on-one appointment, or attend one of several Square One programs at MCPL branches across the metro, including:

- Wednesday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m. – Riverside Branch
- Wednesday, March 12, at 6:00 p.m. – Parkville Branch
- Tuesday, March 18, at 10:00 a.m. – Red Bridge Branch
- Tuesday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m. – Blue Ridge Branch
- Tuesday, March 25, at 2:00 p.m. – Blue Springs North Branch
- Tuesday, March 25, at 5:00 p.m. – East Independence Branch
- Wednesday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m. – Woodneath Library Center
- Wednesday, April 9, at 2:00 p.m. – Withers Branch
- Wednesday, April 16, at 10:00 a.m. – Raytown Branch

- Wednesday, April 16, at 2:00 p.m. – North Independence Branch
- Wednesday, April 23, at 10:00 a.m. – East Lee’s Summit Branch
- Wednesday, April 23, at 2:00 p.m. – Blue Springs South Branch
- Thursday, May 15, at 10:00 a.m. – Green Hills Library Center
- Thursday, May 15, at 2:00 p.m. – North Oak Branch
- Thursday, May 22, at 10:30 a.m. – Midwest Genealogy Center
- Thursday, May 22, at 2:00 p.m. – South Independence Branch
- Thursday, May 29, at 2:00 p.m. – Claycomo Branch
- Thursday, May 29, at 5:00 p.m. – Antioch Branch

In addition to VR career simulations, Square One offers a wide range of services to support job seekers, including career assessments through the DeBruce Foundation, as well as support for starting or growing a business. Square One Community Workforce Specialist Nita Hughley also regularly meets with customers one-on-one to guide them through these resources and help as they navigate the increasingly complex modern workforce. **More information about all of Square One’s resources and services can be found at mymcpl.org/SquareOne.**

This initiative was made possible by a generous grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

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Access Your World

Founded in 1965, Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 34 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 850,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mcpl), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/mcpl), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/mcpl).