



## MATTIX ON MATTERS

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I just got a chance to view an 8-minute video created by the **Cecil County Public Library** about the role they played in helping **Operative Experience Inc. (OEI)**, a research and product development firm located in Cecil County, get their start.

But, that's just part of the story.

First of all, OEI is a company with what appears to be a very bright future in the medical field, but that story has already been reported and will undoubtedly make news again in the future.

However, the link to CCPL has never truly been told before.

Here goes.

CCPL started a **Small Business Information Center** 10 years ago to offer information and support for entrepreneurs and start-up firms to grow businesses and jobs in Cecil County.

Each year, their services grow and become more refined, earning CCPL recognition for this service from the **Cecil County Chamber of Commerce** and the **Maryland State Chamber of Commerce** in 2011 and 2012.

Three weeks ago, CCPL received the inaugural Maryland Library Association's "President's Customer Service Award" for its impact on Cecil County through its Small Business Information Center. Lynn Wheeler, president of the library association, was aware of the library's work with OEI and selected Cecil County Public Library as the first-ever recipient of this new customer service award, said Frazier Walker, community relations specialist for CCPL.

OEI's founder **Dr. Robert Buckman** first got connected to CCPL after his wife, Marie, who happens to be an avid library user, found out about the library's SBIC and told her husband to go to them for help.

As a retired surgeon, Buckman had been working for a few years on developing anatomically correct models to train surgical residents, but was at a loss of how to get his business concept off the ground.

He got information and support from the library. Meanwhile, his wife picked up an audio book about that led Buckman to winning a grant to move his project forward.

Anyone interested in hearing more about OEI and its library connection, I urge you to go online to <http://vimeo.com/65566578> and view the short video for yourself.

Cecil County Director of Economic Development **Lisa Webb** has also posted a link to it on the county's website at [www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org).

So, whoever said the library is just about books, hasn't visited there in awhile.

Great way to grow our economy.

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*(If you have any tidbits to share with Cheryl Mattix for this column, you may contact her at 443-245-5040, or email her at [cmattix@cecilwhig.com](mailto:cmattix@cecilwhig.com).)*