The ongoing partnership between the City of Taylor and the Wayne County Community College District is continuing to pay dividends. On Tuesday, July 31, a ceremonial ribbon-cutting was held to officially open the Early Literacy Station AWE Computers at the Taylor Community Library. The station was funded by a grant from the WCCCD.

On hand for the ribbon-cutting were Mayor Rick Sollars, Library Director Vanessa Verduin-Morris, WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis Ivory and WCCCD Downriver Campus President Anthony Arminia, among a host of others including local children and their parents who use the facility on a regular basis.

"The children of the community love the ease of use of the newly installed AWE workstations," said Julie Sebest, the library's youth service manager. "Patrons of a young age can sit down and work on the stations independently with little assistance. This feature keeps them coming back time and time again to use them."

"The computers have touch screen capabilities and color-coded keyboards which allow young children to learn computer skills. The AWE workstations feature over 4,000 fun, interactive, engaging learning environment that include STEAM, music, writing, geography activities."

The AWE Early Literacy Stations and homework computers were purchased for the Taylor Community Library to enhance library users experiences, educate our youngest patrons in a safe and friendly environment by WCCCD, approximately a $7,000 investment.

While at the library, Dr. Ivory and his staff took the opportunity to spend some time with the children and parents and even read a book to the kids.

The partnership cultivated by Arminia and Mayor Sollars has paid dividend for both the campus and the community. WCCCD Campus Security patrols Heritage Park on a regular basis, supporting the Taylor Police, an arrangement that has made the facility and the surrounding area that much safer.

Other WCCCD donations have helped connect an important walking/running/cycling path between Heritage Park and the WCCCD Downriver Campus, giving recreational enthusiasts much longer exercise routes without having to leave the park or campus to cross busy streets. In addition, the pathway connector is an important facet to the ongoing creation of what is commonly known as the Fletcher Discovery Trail, which will connect for non-motorized vehicles (and walkers/joggers) the Midtown Goddard Road area with Heritage Park, WCCCD, and a new "Fletcher Park" to the south along Pardee Road. The pathways will also connect to Superior Road, the Eureka Road business and entertainment corridor, and even Telegraph Road.

Lastly, WCCCD funds combined with others helped motorize and light the waterwheel at Doan Lake inside Heritage Park. The old waterwheel had not worked properly in years. The motorization enables better control of the heavy wheel. The ability to activate it helps aerate the water, which vastly improves the wildlife habitat. Meanwhile, the lights perform somewhat like a Ferris Wheel, making the historical area even more attractive to visitors.