



SUFFOLK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES PARTNER WITH STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY'S iCREATE TO 3-D PRINT PROTECTIVE FACE MASKS FOR COVID-19 HEALTH CARE WORKERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Suffolk Cooperative Library System exists to help local public libraries provide the best in traditional and innovative public library service to all the people of Suffolk County.

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Ecker is a Stony Brook graduate who previously served as the Interim Director/Manager of Client Support (Customer Engagement and Support) for over 10 years and led the Project 50 Managed Output initiative. He focuses on strategic planning, partnering with researchers and developing best practices for the research community. David is a technology guy at heart, always fond of exploring the newest technologies that will further the needs of Higher Education.

Suffolk County Public Libraries are joining the cause with Stony Brook University. Together they are enlisting their fleet of 3D printers to make protective gear for health care workers fighting the COVID- 19 virus.

(SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY, MARCH 31, 2020) In conjunction with the maker movement and STEAM education, many public libraries now own 3-D printers for the public to learn about, use and enjoy. 3-D printing in libraries allows the community to make a three dimensional solid object from a digital file. Printers are traditionally used in libraries for hands on learning in order to fabricate fun trinkets or make replacement parts for a variety of objects, but the possibilities are endless.

During this time, Stony Brook and other medical facilities are in dire need of the face shields necessary for doctors and medical staff on the front lines to protect themselves and they have called upon the public libraries of Suffolk County for help. The Suffolk Cooperative Library System set up a "3-D printing farm" to help further expedite this. Some of the printers are from the Suffolk County Library System but the vast majority have come from member libraries all over Suffolk County who are donating their 3D printers and supplies, temporarily, towards this effort. Suffolk Libraries are working as quickly as they can, while maintaining safety measures and social distancing, to get this endeavor underway.

The public libraries of Suffolk County responded immediately and in just 3 days the print farm went from 5 printers to 58. The printers are currently working in 2 shifts and averaging 200 printed items per day. Roger Reyes, Assistant Director Suffolk Cooperative Library System commented that, "every public library in Suffolk County has responded and contributed in some way."

"When our public library heard there was a chance to be involved in helping health care workers, we were all in," said Danielle Paisley, Director of the Patchogue-Medford Library. "We knew our community would want to be involved."

"Our communities are full of compassionate people that are looking to help right now, and this was a way we could contribute," said Jennifer Fowler, Director of the Sayville Library.

"Libraries are a community resource," said Neely McCahey, Director, Sachem Public Library. "Being able to give back something towards this effort and support our healthcare professionals, I really believe is our duty. It's times like these when our doors must remain closed but we can still find ways to be useful that make us the most proud. We are grateful to the team at SCLS for pulling this together."

"We've been asked many times 'why *does* the Library have a 3D printer? What do you even do with it?'" said Kelly Harris, Executive Director of the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton. "The usual answer is that we print things people need, usually for students. Now, the answer can simply be, 'we use it to save lives.'"

Libraries continue to support their communities by utilizing 3D printing technology to aid the dedicated healthcare workers on the frontline of this health crisis. Director James Olney of the Northport-East Northport Public Library spoke about how the Library has always been there to support the community during a crisis. "The library aided the World War I effort through its participation in a program to send books to troops overseas. During the Depression, the library's meeting room became a workroom. Local residents worked in shifts mending donated clothing that was then distributed to families in need. During World War II and in the years that followed, the Library did its part to support the war effort. It collected donations of books to send to the armed forces overseas. Red Cross volunteers used the library to prepare surgical dressings. Following tropical storm Irene (2011) and Superstorm Sandy (2012) the Library provided recharging stations for electronics, wireless access, and information for those seeking help in locating emergency assistance. Today, we are proud to be doing our part during this health crisis. While our doors must remain closed, we are working beyond our physical building, joining other public libraries in Suffolk County in this innovative 3D printer farm project."

"As we watch healthcare workers work tirelessly during this epidemic, loaning the Library's 3D printer to help make personal protection equipment was our community's small way of saying 'thank you' to everyone on the front lines in our hospitals." Lisa Kropp, Lindenhurst Memorial Library Director

The Public Libraries of Suffolk County are committed to continue to provide resources and services to their communities during these unprecedented times. They are humbled and inspired to be able to help our front line health care workers in their effort to fight the coronavirus.

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For video footage <https://youtu.be/RxRbSF9e-PU> of the 3-D "print farm" set up at the Suffolk Cooperative Library System in Bellport, NY



3-D Printers from the Public Libraries of Suffolk County set up at the Suffolk Cooperative Library System in Bellport, NY

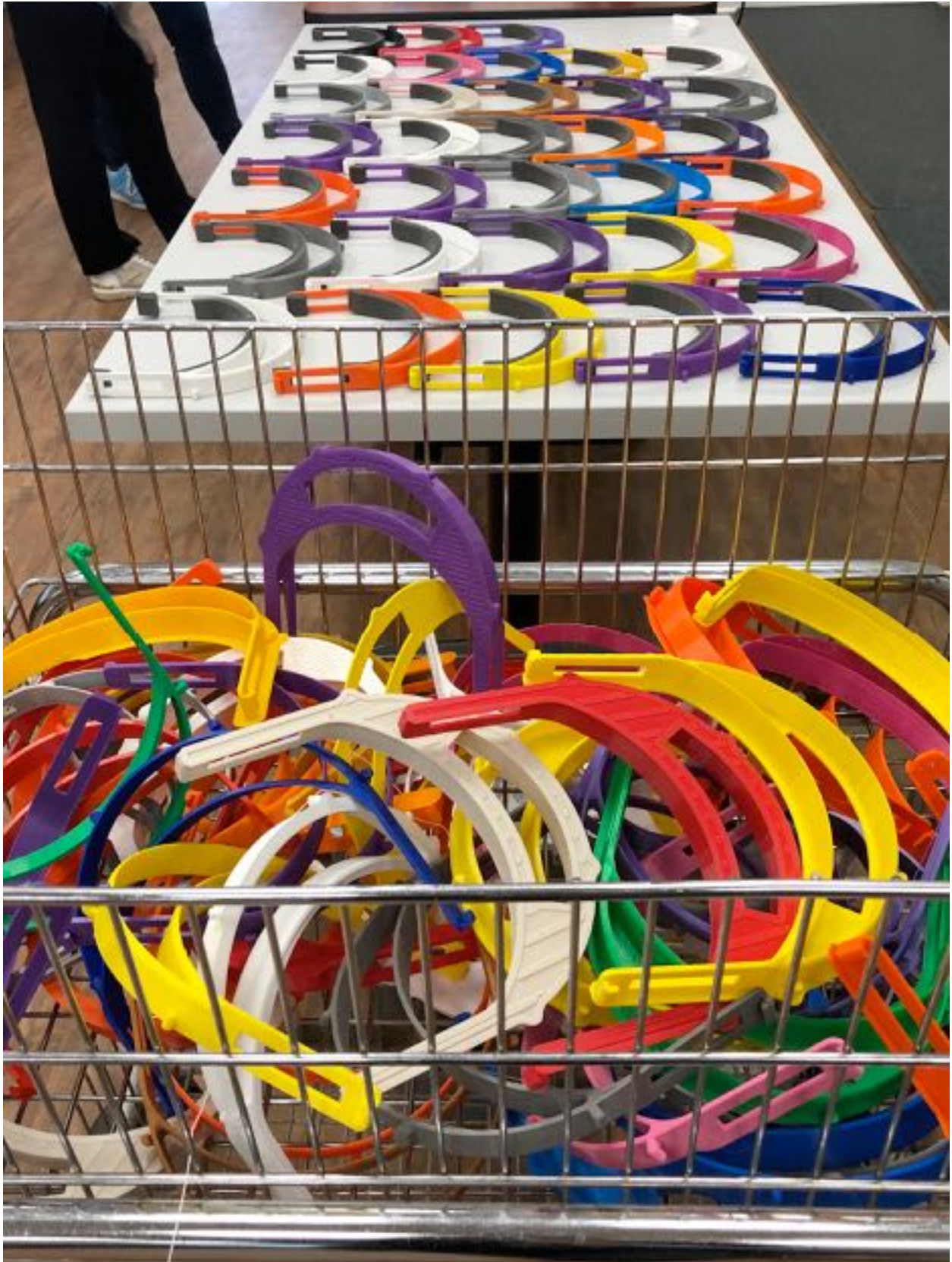




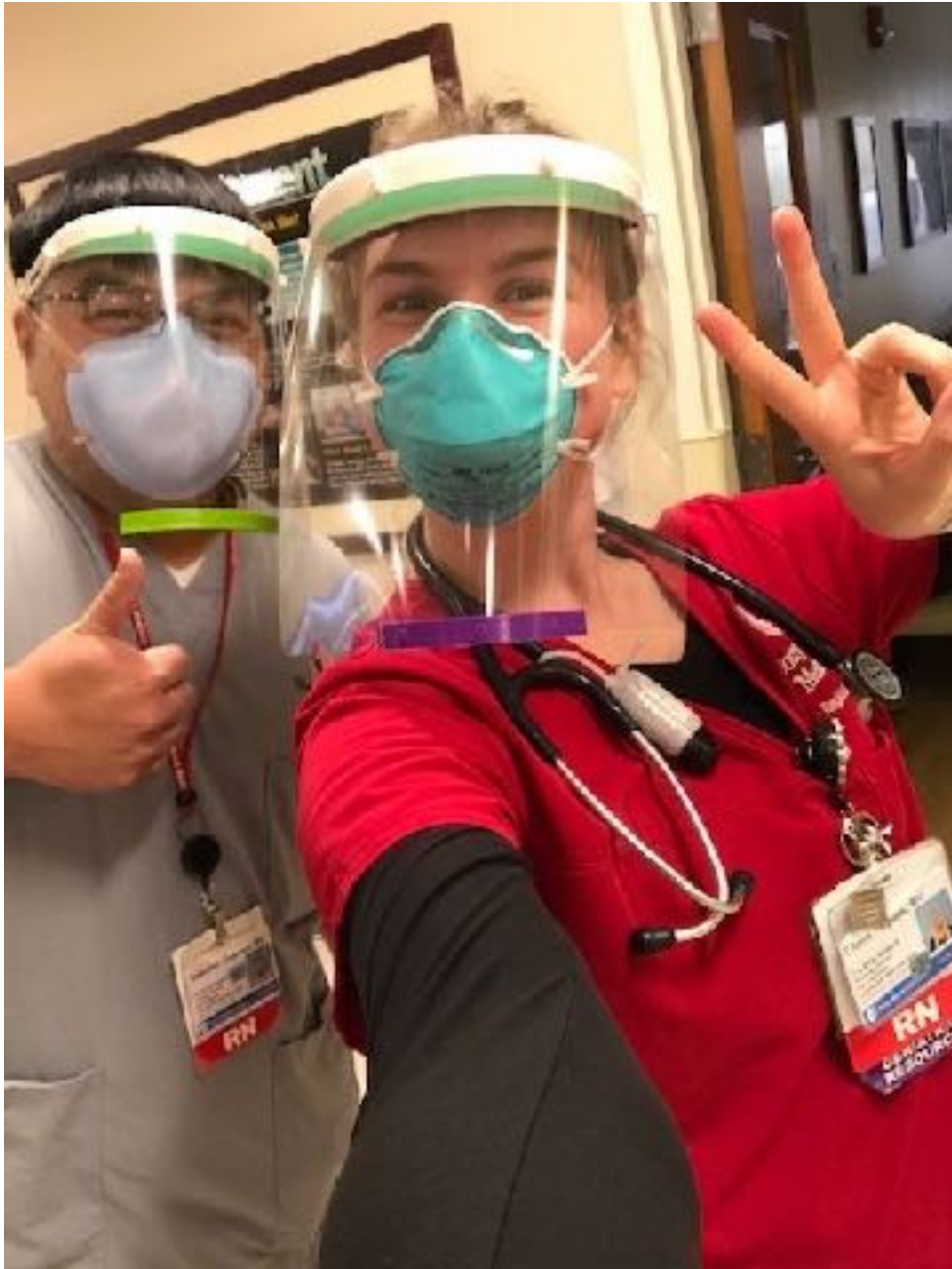
Face shield parts being 3-D printed at the Suffolk Cooperative Library System



Spools of 3-D filament ready to be printed



Finished product of the 3-D printed face shield parts



Stony Brook health care workers wearing the 3-D printed face shields