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## Gtech gives \$15K to after-school program/Wal-Mart donates \$25K to local ESL program

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**PROVIDENCE MAYOR** David N. Cicilline, with scissors, joins GTECH and AS220 representatives at the ribbon cutting celebrating the upgrade completion of the Broad Street Studio computer lab.

## GTECH gives \$15K to after-school program

GTECH Corp. launched its After School Advantage Program in Providence at AS220's Broad Street Studio. GTECH's nationwide program serves at-risk children in predominantly inner-city communities.

"GTECH's After School Advantage program is designed to help close the digital divide by offering the latest technology to those who otherwise may not have access to computers," said Robert Vincent, senior vice president of corporate affairs at GTECH.

Through the After School Advantage program, AS220's Broad Street Studio received eight Dell computers equipped with Photoshop, Adobe Premiere Video software, state-of-the-art sound editing

capacities, a projector and a drum machine for music workshops.

The new computer lab will offer Internet access, word processing, artistic tools and much more to AS220's youth members, who range in age from 15 to 21 years old. A portion of the \$15,000 contribution provided for physical improvements to the studio.

"AS220 is grateful and honored to be selected as one of GTECH's After School Advantage Computer Centers," said Umberto Crenca, AS220 founder and artistic director.

Broad Street Studio offers free art instruction and career development at its Empire Street location. ■



**WAL-MART STORE MANAGER** Martin Elizardo, left, gives Providence ESL students a tour of his Providence store and answers their questions about Wal-Mart's hiring process.

## Wal-Mart donates \$25K to local ESL program

The Wal-Mart Foundation recently gave a donation of \$25,000 to the **Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI)**.

In addition, 16 students toured the Providence Wal-Mart store and participated in a roundtable discussion with Wal-Mart Store Manager Martin Elizardo. The students had an opportunity to utilize their language skills and learn about different job functions in the store by asking questions and talking to company associates.

"RIFLI helps adults develop the basic skills that all employers require of their employees," said Chris Buchanan, Wal-Mart senior manager of public affairs.

"We are proud to not only grant RIFLI a check for \$25,000, but to offer our stores and workers as resources for people trying to improve their employment skills."

"The investment that Wal-Mart has made in our program has allowed our adult immigrant students to develop the critical skills they need to find and keep a good-paying job," said Karisa Tashjian, literacy program coordinator for RIFLI. "Many of our students have gone on to obtain employment or enter postsecondary or training programs."

RIFLI has been designated in the top 15 of adult education programs in the state by the **R.I. Department of Education**. ■