Leadership Academy by PALS
2017 Group Projects

PA Forward Star Library Recertification Program

Mentor(s): Paula Gilbert

Contacts: Brandi Hunter-Davenport, PA Forward Star & Training Team Committee

Leadership Academy Participants:

Description: The group will review the current Star Library Program and work to develop the next layer of the program – the recertification process. Essentially, once you are a "Star" library and have attained the Gold Star status, a status retained for three years, there is currently not a step beyond that point. In other words, once your library attains the Gold Star status and the time period for acknowledgement has expired, the question becomes what's next or is the program simply over at this stage? We all feel very strongly that this should not be the case. This group will determine action items for the recertification process, what the star level looks like once a library has gone beyond the gold and how long the status obtained as a part of the recertification process is valid. The group will work very closely with the current PA Forward Star Training team so they understand the format of the current program and can work to develop the next generation of the program – one that is not completely duplicative of the current outline.

Goal: Develop the Star Library Program's recertification process.

Outcomes: New emerging leaders and volunteers working to add more validity and value to the Star Library status for libraries in Pennsylvania; Participants learn importance of project management.

PA Forward Today – A newsletter for PA Forward partners and Pennsylvania Librarians

Mentor(s):

Leadership Academy Participants:

Contacts: Brandi Hunter-Davenport, PR & Marketing Committee

Goal: To continue communication outreach to the PA Forward partnering organizations

Description: A 2016 PALS group created and disseminated two iterations of the *PA Forward Today* newsletter - a targeted communication aimed to engage PA Forward partners. Content included fast facts that the partners could use when speaking about PA Forward and their support of Pennsylvania libraries. Sections also included partner program highlights and news from the association. The piece was put together with the intention of increasing outreach to the partners and ensuring that they were receiving timely communications, being actively engaged in the work of PA Forward and the Pennsylvania Library Association. We'd like the correspondence to continue and would like another group to take the original work and expand on it as the partners appreciated the outreach and are looking for ways to provide content for inclusion. An adaptable template has been developed in word, making navigation of this project less difficult.

Outcomes: Increased communication to the PA Forward partners; Distribution of a PA Forward newsletter 3-4 times a year.

PaLA Membership & Mentor Program

Mentors:
Leadership Academy Participants:
Contacts: Brandi Hunter-Davenport, Christi Buker, 2016 PALS graduates

Description: In 2016, a PALS group developed a career mentoring program which paired experienced librarians with those less experienced in the library world and those individuals interested in taking more of a leadership role in the association and/or the library profession. Both the mentors and mentees were current members of the PA Library Association. This program will continue with clearly defined action items established for the mentor-mentee relationship and some discussion about the outcome of the relationship, potentially as a part of a panel discussion at the yearly conference.

Goal: Continue the PaLA mentorship program, facilitating leadership growth and potential in the association and across the state.

Outcomes: New emerging leaders and volunteers to help PaLA meet its mission. Supports membership outreach, engagement and sustainability. 2017 expansion to specifically target engaging new PaLA members (within last 2 years).

PA Forward Training Evaluation

Mentors: Academic Outreach Committee Members/Designees
Leadership Academy Participants:
Contacts: Brandi Hunter-Davenport, PA Forward Steering Committee

Description: The group will review current evaluation instruments and will revise as needed. Group will also collect all evaluations/results from various PA Forward trainings and programs and compile them by event for grant purposes. Before the end of the project year, the group will take all collected responses and develop an executive summary that can be referred to by the PA Forward Star & Training team for consideration as they make changes to the training programs offered through the PA Forward program.

Goal: Develop a defined measurement tool for accessing credibility of PA Forward trainings.

Outcomes: New emerging leaders and volunteers to help PaLA and PA Forward provide rigorous testing of its instruments.

PaLAunchPod Group

Mentors: Melissa Rowse and Mary Garm
Leadership Academy Participants:
Contacts: Christi Buker, Brandi Hunter-Davenport, PA Forward Steering Committee, 2016 PALS graduates

Description: New group participants will learn podcasting tools and techniques from the 2016 group. Then they select and interview library leaders among the membership of PaLA. Podcasts will be posted on or linked to PaLA's website and used as a marketing resource. Podcasts would likely become an extension of the PaLA Membership Moments blog. Expansion opportunity for 2017 – explore sponsorships or funding streams to support equipment and hosting.

Goal: Engage and promote PaLA membership. Learn more about individuals personally. Embrace technology and different approaches to capturing stories.

Outcomes: Archived personal stories of PaLA members. Updated communication pieces.