



NEWS RELEASE

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RECIPES TO SUCCESS EQUATES TO LITERACIES IN ACTION

PA Library Association's "Literacies in Action Guide" helps libraries connect programming to meet needs of their communities

Mechanicsburg, PA (March 30, 2017) – Over the course of history, libraries have transformed beyond the bricks and mortar structures traditionally envisioned when thinking of them. In order to help library patrons further connect with all libraries have to offer in current society, the Pennsylvania Library Association developed and released the “Literacies in Action Guide.”

The concept was to create a format similar to a recipe that would give exact information to make it easy for others to reproduce. The guide walks the user through preparation, execution and evaluation of a series of programs that can be offered at the local library. Each program outlined includes: the program name, development level, program description, topics, target audience, expected expenditures, possible partners, needed materials, planning time, related books, resources, goals and outcomes.

“As members of the library world, we know that libraries are no longer just book repositories,” said Christi Buker, Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) Executive Director. “Libraries offer programs and opportunities and have become central hubs in their local communities. This guide, which is organized by literacy, boasts a multitude of activities and suggestions, including the needed steps for program implementation at the local library. The guide essentially provides everything libraries need to further build their capacity and extend their reach in their communities, using PA Forward as the vehicle.”

When PA Forward officially launched in 2012, it was established to fully demonstrate that libraries were in the right position to be community centers of information, technology and learning. PA Forward works through five key literacies – Basic, Information, Civic & Social, Health and Financial – to assist all residents in enhancing their overall quality of life. In January of this year, the association announced the statewide implementation of the Star Library Program as the next iteration of the initiative. The Star Library Program reinforces the value libraries bring not only to the overall communities they serve but also how they support an individual’s personal development working through PA Forward’s five literacies.

Examples of the types of programs users will find in the guide include Cursive Club and Reading Clubs (Basic Literacy); Social Media for Seniors and Staying Safe Online (Information Literacy); Mock Trial and Mock Election programs (Civic & Social Literacy); Healthy Food Choices Storytime

and Community Blood Drive (Health Literacy); and Children and Money and Identity Theft (Financial Literacy.) The Literacies in Action Manual was created by a group of librarians from throughout the state.

“Special thanks goes to Kristen Cassidy, Chester County Library; Leigh-Ann Puchalski, Carbondale Public Library; Catherine Stewart, Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity; Laura Gardoski, Abington Community Library; Sandy Longo, Abington Community Library; and Amy Krize Suveg, Chester County Library and District Center for each of their efforts in pulling this valuable tool together,” added Buker. “This was no easy feat when you look at everything that went into its creation but the time spent resulted in a worthwhile piece and more importantly, a guide that will help our libraries help those they serve even more.”

“The Literacies in Action Guide will help you start incorporating the PA Forward framework into your library’s programming,” said Brandi Hunter-Davenport, PaLA’s PA Forward Project Manager “An added bonus is if you are working toward your Star Library status, this guide provides programs by literacy that will help you obtain your bronze, silver, and gold level stars – demonstrating your libraries’ reach into your local areas.”

To request an electronic copy of the Literacies in Action Manual, send an email to paforward@palibraries.org.

More information about PA Forward and the Star Library Program is also available at www.palibraries.org. Once there, click on the “Get Involved” tab and then click on “PA Forward.” Also feel free to contact Brandi Hunter-Davenport, PA Forward Project Manager, at 717-766-7663 or paforward@palibraries.org.

About the Pennsylvania Library Association

Founded in 1901, the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) is the state's oldest and most diverse professional library organization serving libraries, library employees, library trustees, and Friends of the Library groups. For more information, visit www.palibraries.org, [facebook.com/PALibraries](https://www.facebook.com/PALibraries) or [@PALibraryAssoc](https://twitter.com/PALibraryAssoc) on Twitter.

About PA Forward

The Pennsylvania Library Association’s PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries initiative was conceived to give voice to what the library community already knows, and what other states throughout the nation recognize – with the right support, libraries are ideally positioned as the community centers of information, technology, and learning that will fuel educational and economic opportunity for all of our citizens. For more information, visit www.PAForward.org, [facebook.com/paforward](https://www.facebook.com/paforward) or [@PAForward5](https://twitter.com/PAForward5) on Twitter.

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