Christi Buker and Brandi Hunter-Davenport talk PA Forward

What I love about being here is the passion I see being exuded by our librarians.

Q: Can you discuss recent association developments that would interest our community Partners?

BHD: I think one of the more recent developments has been the kick off of the [PA Forward] Star Library Program statewide at the beginning of the year. The program is picking up a lot of steam and we are out speaking to our libraries about how the Program is helping them craft their individual narratives - telling the stories of our libraries and helping all residents see, understand and value what these entities bring to their local areas.

Q: What impact have you observed Partners have on the PA Forward initiative?

BHD: PA Forward has some phenomenal partners and we are so appreciative of their time and efforts with this initiative.

B: The partners are what distinguishes us from other organizations. The partners bring their subject matter expertise, varying industry connections, and support to further our work. Ultimately, PA Forward is all about helping Pennsylvania residents be successful.

B: Libraries have been doing some amazing work over the years, and the partners really help strengthen everything from program content to enhanced visibility of the opportunities libraries offer. Our partners are a vital resource that are merely outside the four walls of the library building! As we look to the future, the value of our partnerships in helping create a population that uses libraries as a vital tool for success is clear. Thank you so much to those partners that have helped us get this far! We look forward to even greater opportunities to work together on the horizon!

-Jamie Hansell

PaLA Academy of Leadership Studies (PALS) Helps PA Forward

Each year, the PaLA Academy of Leadership Studies offers Pennsylvania librarians the chance to develop their leadership potential through a three day workshop of speakers, activities and learning. The PALS participants work on projects throughout the year to promote libraries and PaLA. Here are some of the great projects that have helped PA Forward directly.

PaLA Member Mentor Program - In order to help emerging librarians, the PaLA Member Mentor program aims to connect experienced librarians with less-experienced members within the organization for the purpose of developing their skills and helping them.

PA Forward related articles - In order to help raise awareness of the PA Forward initiative, this group provides PA Forward focused articles for the Compendium, the statewide library blog published by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

PaLAunch Pod - A new podcast series created by Pennsylvania Librarians finds its way into your ears through PaLAunchPod. The first episode features a children's librarian who found a way to connect incarcerated parents with their children through reading. You can download, subscribe to, and listen to the podcast at iTunes and Soundcloud.

PA Forward Newsletter - Last, but not least, the newsletter you see in front of you is another project of a PALS group. This provides information and news about PA Forward to subscribers.

Literacy Fast Facts!

- Low literacy costs the U.S. $225 billion each year due to non-productivity, crime, and loss of tax revenue from unemployment (National Council for Adult Learning, 2015).
- Information literacy, the ability to find, evaluate, and use information effectively, is primarily taught in college but these skills are relevant to all ages. Being able to discern fact from fiction is essential for active citizenship and civil discourse!
- According to a National Foundation for Credit Counseling 2010 report, nearly 28% of adults do not pay all their bills on time, and more than half (65%) still do not have a budget.

PA Forward Today is looking for contributors! If you have a great article idea let us know. Contact us at PAForwardToday@gmail.com

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