NEWS RELEASE

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LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT PENNSYLVANIA REACH NEW HEIGHTS AS PART OF PA FORWARD STAR LIBRARY PROGRAM

Mechanicsburg, PA (January 8, 2018) – Libraries continue to be strong community resources, demonstrating the power of literacy in action. Using the Pennsylvania Library Association’s PA Forward framework, libraries highlight the various programs they offer, demonstrating how those programs result in investments in the patrons being served. From story times to Home Finance 101 programs, libraries are the cog in the wheel that powers Pennsylvania.

Nearly 200 libraries have taken the PA Forward tools a step further and registered for the Association’s Star Library Program. 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. The Star Library recognition offers support to libraries who participate and clearly demonstrate their incorporation of the literacies in their programming activities. Those libraries are recognized for meeting action items within the bronze, silver and gold star levels of the program.

At the end of 2017, a number of libraries were recognized for their matriculation in the program.

“More and more libraries are understanding how they are an essential component of moving Pennsylvania forward,” said Pennsylvania Library Association Executive Director Christi Buker. “Libraries are community pillars that offer a significant array of programs and resources. Libraries, and the professionals in the building, use these resources to invest in the local community and patrons. In turn, individuals will benefit from these investments through improvements in their own lives – whether health, financial, social, or basic literacy and leisure. Stronger individuals can then contribute to the community, the economy, our children and schools, and thereby help all of Pennsylvania more forward. The Star Library program is our way of distinguishing all that libraries are contributing to our communities and an opportunity to spotlight their amazing work.

“We are very proud of all that PA libraries offer, particularly in light of the limited financial resources that most public libraries are challenged by,” Buker added. “These stars are our way of acknowledging community awareness and high quality work.”

A repository of the types of programs that qualify libraries for Star Library status can be found in the PA Forward Commons found at [http://bit.ly/2ilY91v](http://bit.ly/2ilY91v).

The following is a listing of libraries recognized in the fourth quarter of 2017 for their highest level of star status achieved between October 1 and December 15.
Allegheny County
• Bethel Park Public Library – Silver, Level 5
• Western Allegheny Community Library – Gold

Berks County
• Fleetwood Area Public Library – Silver, Level 3
• Mifflin Community Library – Silver, Level 1

Blair County
• Bellwood Antis Public Library – Silver, Level 2
• Hollidaysburg Area Public Library – Silver, Level 3

Bucks County
• Free Library of New Hope and Solebury – Silver, Level 5

Butler County
• Prospect Community Library - Bronze

Jefferson County
• Mengle Memorial Library – Gold

Lancaster County
• Learning Commons, PA College of Health Sciences – Silver, Level 3

Lackawanna County
• Carbondale Public Library – Silver, Level 1
• Lackawanna County Library System Bookmobile – Silver, Level 2
• Nancy Kay Holmes Library – Gold
• Scranton Public Library – Gold
• Taylor Community Library – Gold
• Valley Community Library – Silver, Level 4

Lebanon County
• Lebanon Community Library – Bronze

Lehigh County
• Lower Macungie Library – Silver, Level 2
• Parkland Community Library – Silver, Level 2

Luizerne County
• Hazleton Area Public Library- Bronze

Monroe County
• Eastern Monroe Public Library – Bronze

Montgomery County
• Ardmore Library – Bronze
• North Wales Public Library – Silver, Level 5

Northampton County
• Easton Area Public Library – Silver, Level 4
• Northampton Area Public Library – Silver, Level 1

Northumberland County
• Degenstein Community Library – Bronze

**Washington County**
• Monongahela Area Library – Bronze

**Westmoreland County**
• Penn Area Library – Gold
• Scottdale Public Library – Gold

**Schuylkill County**
• Frackville Free Public Library – Level 3

**York County**
• Martin Library – Silver, Level 5
• Paul Smith Library of Southern York County – Bronze

A total of seven gold stars; 17 silver stars; and eight bronze stars were awarded in mid-December.

For more information about the PA Forward Star Library program, including a full listing of all participating libraries, contact Brandi Hunter-Davenport, Project Manager, at 717-766-7663 or paforward@palibraries.org.

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