Libraries take the lead in Engaging Communities throughout Pennsylvania

Local Libraries Celebrate Community Connections this October

[Location] – Pennsylvania libraries are transforming themselves to keep pace with the needs of the communities they serve. From technology to education, to social services, to the arts, libraries are transforming from books and banks of computers to community centers -- deepening engagement with their communities.

In an increasingly digital world, Pennsylvania libraries provide and promote a sense of place in the community, an anchor where all are welcome. New moms connect at baby story times, older adults find help making life transitions, patrons are to make new friends at book discussion groups, teens connect with one another after school.

“Pennsylvania libraries serve as the people’s university, providing information and educational opportunities, many of which are at no cost to their patrons,” said NAME, TITLE at NAME OF LIBRARY. “In addition, libraries recognize their role as not just providing content, but to enable community members to create their own content through maker spaces, STEM programs, and writing classes among others.

“Pennsylvania libraries are important partners in educating youth. Teens pick up important life skills through library programs, volunteerism, and homework help. Summer Learning programs help bridge the gap between school years and the economic divide.”

Libraries serve as catalysts for community change and their staffs are in unique positions to gather information on societal issues as they interact with people from all walks of life. More and more libraries are partnering with government and social agencies to address the needs of their communities.

“Libraries are places where people gather to interact with one another, explore the world, and imagine the possibilities” added [Insert librarian, administrator, or staff person’s name here]. “Libraries are building partnerships with area organizations and institutions to build collaboration, education, health and well-being for all.”
Find out what your library is doing to engage the community by visiting [library name]. For information visit [insert web site] or call [insert phone number].

**About Pennsylvania Libraries & PA Forward**

Pennsylvania Libraries have moved beyond being book repositories. They are agile institutions serving real-life needs. Libraries are key to powering progress and elevating Pennsylvania’s quality of life by fueling the types of knowledge essential to success: Basic Literacy, Information Literacy, Civic and Social Literacy, Health Literacy, and Financial Literacy.

Working in partnership with the Pennsylvania Library Association, libraries from across the commonwealth are working together to move **PA Forward**. An initiative of the association, PA Forward spotlights all libraries are doing every day, demonstrating that with the right support, libraries are positioned as community centers of information, technology, and learning, fueling educational and economic opportunity for all citizens.

For more information about PA Forward, visit [www.PAForward.org](http://www.PAForward.org), [www.facebook.com/paforward](http://www.facebook.com/paforward), or find PA Forward on Twitter at @PAForward5.

For more information about the PA Library Association, visit [www.palibraries.org](http://www.palibraries.org) or [www.facebook.com/palibraries](http://www.facebook.com/palibraries). You can also find them on Twitter at @PALibraryAssoc.

**Resources for Librarians**


The Harwood Institute [http://theharwoodinstitute.org/](http://theharwoodinstitute.org/)

Institute of Museum and Library Services [https://www.imls.gov/issues/national-issues/community](https://www.imls.gov/issues/national-issues/community)
Social Media Hashtags

#CivicLiteracy
#SocialLiteracy
#PAForward
#CommunityEngagement
#PALibraries