



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Marcia Wilking, District Consultant, mwilking@eriecountypa.gov

ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AWARDED PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S PA FORWARD™ GOLD STAR

Library honored for intentional investments in literacy-aligned programs in their county

Mechanicsburg, PA (12/19/2019) – The Pennsylvania Library Association just announced that Erie County Public Library is a PA Forward™ Gold Star Library recipient.

“We continue to be in awe of the work of our libraries and all they are doing to help residents,” said Rob Leshner, Pennsylvania Library Association’s PA Forward Program Manager. “The PA Forward Star Library program acknowledges libraries’ intentional investments in literacy programming. Programs can include first-time home buyer seminars to healthy eating and overall wellness activities. They can include toddler story time or tech programs for seniors. Regardless of the type of program being offered, libraries are clearly more than book repositories. Libraries are educating and investing in the people they connect with. These individuals then turn around and make direct investments in their overall communities. Every day, libraries are changing lives, and we thank Erie County Public Library and all libraries for what they do.”

Gold Star recipients have proven through a peer-reviewed process that their libraries carry out consistently high-quality programming, which enriches the lives of the residents of their community. These programs help to move PA Forward™.

“It’s quite an honor to have ECPL recognized for the work they’ve been doing every day that led to this award,” said Marcia Wilking, district library consultant.

PA Forward, which launched statewide in 2012, works through five key literacies – Basic, Information, Civic & Social, Health and Financial – to assist individuals in enhancing their overall quality of life. To continue helping libraries use PA Forward to demonstrate all their libraries offer, in January 2017, the Association kicked off the Star Library program statewide. The Star Library recognition offers support to libraries who participate and integrate PA Forward’s literacies in their programming activities. Those libraries are recognized for meeting benchmarks within the bronze, silver and gold star levels of the program.

“ECPL is committed to the work of outreach, empowerment and creating an environment for lifelong learning,” said Marcus Yuille, Erie County Public Library’s outreach manager. “Receiving the PA Forward Gold Star affirms our promise to accelerate in fundamental practices that will positively impact Erie County.”

Stars are awarded on a quarterly basis in the calendar year and the recognition is for the highest level attained in the program at the time of the award.

For a full listing of PA Forward Star Libraries and their levels of achievement, visit <http://paforwardstarlibraries.org/star-status/>. For more information about National Library Week, visit <http://www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/presskits/nlw>. For more information about Erie County Public Library and PA Forward, visit <https://erielibrary.org/pa-forward/>.

###