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**Library Applauds PLA for its Every Child Ready to Read
ASAE 2016 Power of A: Summit / Gold Awards**

Largo, MD – The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) congratulates the Public Library Association (PLA), the proud recipient of two American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) awards for [Every Child Ready to Read’s \(ECRR’s\)](#) co-creation and implementation. The two [ASAE Power of A Awards](#) earned by PLA are: *2016 Power of A Summit Award* and *2016 Power of A Gold Award*. The goal of ECRR is to empower and encourage parents and caregivers to support the early literacy development of children from newborn to age 5.

Prior to PLA’s and the Association for Library Service to Children’s (ALSC’s) creation of ECRR, libraries focused on the child, rather than on educating the parent or caregiver with respect to early literacy. “The ECRR toolkit, available in both English and Spanish, includes background and research which validates the approach and educates library professionals about early literacy science. The core toolkit elements are the presentation tools for six workshops; four are for patrons and two are designed to increase library staff skills,” states a recently issued PLA media release by Kara O’Keefe, Manager, Membership Marketing.

PGCMLS has incorporated ECRR in its training of library staff and in café’s that provide parents and caregivers with the tools needed to enhance the early literacy experience of young children. “We built upon the theme, with Ready 2 Read centers and backpacks with amazing success,” said Michelle H. Hamiel, Chief Operating Officer for Public Services. “We highly commend PLA on its awards for this much needed service and have already seen positive results in the [2015-2016 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment \(KRA\)](#) conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MDSE) for preschoolers in Prince George’s County.”

About The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack and Playaway Launchpads. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse’s HelpNow and JobNow, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, Chess Clubs and

MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Try out our new PGCMLS app too! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

About the Public Library Association (PLA)

PLA is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 9,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world. PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders. For more information about PLA, visit www.pla.org or contact the PLA office at 1 (800) 545-2433, ext.5PLA, or pla@ala.org.

About the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

ALSC is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. From creative programming and best practices to continuing education and professional connections—ALSC members are innovators in the field of children's library service. ALSC's network includes more than 4,000 children's and youth librarians, children's literature experts, publishers, education and library school faculty members, and other adults dedicated to creating a better future for children through libraries. To learn more, visit www.ala.org/alsc.

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