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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Libraries Moving Pennsylvania Forward

CARLISLE, PA – At their public meeting today, the Cumberland County Commissioners proclaimed April 8-14, 2012 to be National Library Week in recognition of the role that Cumberland County's libraries play in fueling educational and economic opportunity for all its citizens. Over the last ten years, the Cumberland County Library System has seen the number of items borrowed grow from 1.9 million to 2.6 million annually – a 39% increase.

The Cumberland County Library System (CCLS) is joining with other libraries in the State to promote PA Forward, a new initiative of the Pennsylvania Library Association. This PA Forward (<http://paforward.org>) initiative was created to demonstrate that libraries are ideally positioned as community centers of information, technology, and learning that help make educational and economic opportunity possible for everyone. Cumberland County's libraries help people move forward with the knowledge and information they need to be successful students, parents, money managers, health consumers, and citizens.

Libraries provide information, resources and programs in five literacy areas:

1. **Basic Literacy** which leads to a better trained and skilled workforce, and a growing economy;
2. **Information Literacy** where mastery of new online technologies leads to enhanced job skills and the ability to fully participate in a digital society;
3. **Civic and Social Literacy** which leads to the ability to participate and contribute effectively to our community, government and society and to connect with one another through civil discourse;
4. **Health Literacy** which leads to healthier, more productive lives; and
5. **Financial Literacy** which leads to greater self-sufficiency and stronger economic futures.

Whether it's story times for infants and toddlers or the annual reading summer program, Cumberland County's libraries work hard to be sure that our children are ready to read. In the area of information literacy, the County's libraries offer assistance at no charge to help citizens learn how to use basic computer software, set-up an email account to apply for a job, or learn how to download eBooks.

CCLS serves eight private, non-profit public libraries in Cumberland County. In the last five years, library service has grown significantly:

- Use of library Internet computers by job seekers, students and business people increased 18% to more than 160,000 sessions last year.
- Circulation of library materials increased 3% to more than 2.6 million items borrowed annually.
- The number of people visiting Cumberland County's libraries each day increased 4%.

All of these resources and programs demonstrate that libraries continue to be relevant in the 21st century. The Commissioners encourage all citizens to visit their local library this week to take advantage of the resources available.

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