Authors & Illustrators Speak Up for PA Libraries

The Pennsylvania Library Association is proud to introduce the “PA Forward Speak Up! Authors & Illustrators Speak Up for PA Libraries” initiative. This initiative places Pennsylvania authors and illustrators in the spotlight, increasing support for libraries everywhere during a critical period of economic downturn. As a partner and spokesperson, your involvement can help fuel the dialogue on Pennsylvania libraries and the key role these institutions play in the economic, social and educational fabric of our state.

Your leadership comes at a true watershed moment for libraries everywhere. With Americans facing economic uncertainty, high unemployment rates, and the dizzying pace of an increasingly digital world, libraries remain the great equalizer. While statistics show us that library usage is up in unprecedented numbers, reports from libraries around the country tell us that tight city and state budgets are closing library doors, reducing collections and resources, and ultimately reducing access when it’s needed most.

The library community is keenly aware of this irony, but our message is heard best when it’s delivered by those outside of the library, particularly those who can speak eloquently and articulately about the value of libraries and the issues facing them. And who better than individuals whose works are the very reason we have libraries: authors like you. Authors are natural allies of libraries. You appreciate them as a quiet space to write or do research and you understand that the library that houses your books immortalizes your words and ideas.

Presentations will be about 45 minutes to an hour and will include time for books sales and signings. This initiative is a great opportunity to spread the word about both faculty fiction publications as well as the results of research projects.

Please visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QF6YH52 and provide us with the information we need for our grassroots campaign. If you have any questions feel free to email at mstern@delcolibraries.org.

Once you complete that survey, your name will appear on a list of volunteer authors from which libraries will select speakers. You would be asked to speak only to libraries within your own home county.