



**Huntingdon Valley Library**

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**For Immediate Release:**

Head of Teen and Adult Services and Lower Moreland Township Police Training Coordinator Win Pennsylvania Library Association's Best Practices Award for Innovative STEM Program.

Huntingdon Valley, PA. October 16, 2023 - The Pennsylvania Library Association has recognized the outstanding contributions of Beth Bilus, Head of Teen and Adult Services at Huntingdon Valley Library (HVL), and Rich Worthington, Lower Moreland Township Police Training Coordinator, for their exemplary work in developing "CSI Club" by awarding them the 2023 Best Practices in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Award. CSI Club is a collaborative initiative between HVL and the Lower Moreland Township Police Department, promoting community partnership and providing unique learning experiences for local youth.

CSI Club, designed for students in grades 6 to 12, meets once a month and covers a variety of engaging topics related to forensic science, including fingerprinting, interview and interrogation skills, trace evidence collection, blood spatter analysis, and foot and tire print analysis. By focusing on these topics, the program not only enriches students' understanding of STEM but also builds leadership skills and encourages cooperative teamwork.

Beth Bilus, a passionate advocate for youth education and library services, expressed her excitement about the award: "We are thrilled to be recognized by the Pennsylvania Library Association for our collaborative efforts with the Lower Moreland Township Police Department. The CSI Club has not only fostered a stronger sense of community but has also opened up exciting STEM learning opportunities for local teens. It is our hope that this recognition will inspire more library and community partnerships to create more innovative and engaging programs like CSI Club."

Rich Worthington, the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, highlighted the program's impact on young minds: "CSI Club is more than just a STEM program; it's a way to empower our youth with practical skills and future career possibilities. By introducing them to expert instructors and authentic equipment, we are igniting their curiosity and encouraging them to explore the exciting world of forensic science and criminal investigation."

The Pennsylvania Library Association's Best Practices Award is a testament to the innovative and inclusive approach of CSI Club, which has made a lasting impact on the Lower Moreland community. Through the collaboration of Huntingdon Valley Library and the Lower Moreland Township Police Department, this program is set to inspire future generations and help shape the future leaders in STEM-related fields and beyond.

About the Pennsylvania Library Association: The Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) is Pennsylvania's oldest professional library organization, serving libraries, library staff, and supporters throughout the Commonwealth. PaLA provides opportunities for professional growth, leadership development, and networking for library personnel and advocates.

For more information about CSI Club or to schedule interviews with Beth Bilus or Rich Worthington, please contact Beth Bilus at [hvlysa@mclinc.org](mailto:hvlysa@mclinc.org)