



Contact:
Suzanne M. Thinner
Communications Manager
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412.578.2458 (office)
412.688.8609 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carnegie Library Director Dr. Barbara K. Mistick to Leave Post in 2011 *Trustees Plan to Launch Search for New Director*

(PITTSBURGH, PA December 13, 2010) – Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, President and Director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, today informed the Library's Board of Trustees at their regularly scheduled board meeting that she will be leaving her position when her existing agreement with the Library expires on May 31, 2011.

She has held this position since June 1, 2005 when she became the first woman to lead Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Dr. Mistick is disclosing her intentions at this time because she is pursuing another opportunity and wishes to give the board ample time to conduct its search for her successor.

"I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to lead Pittsburgh's legendary Carnegie Library system during the past five years," said Dr. Mistick. "It has been an exhilarating experience to be involved in advancing such a vital community asset that helps so many people in so many ways. I will continue to work closely with our board and management team during the final months of my tenure to facilitate a smooth transition of leadership. Importantly, during this period I will continue to advocate for and seek new sources of sustainable funding for our great library system," added Mistick.

Commenting on Dr. Mistick's announcement, Carnegie Library Board of Trustees Chair Jacqui Fiske Lazo said, "Barbara Mistick has made many contributions to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh since her appointment in 2005. Despite the relatively poor economic environment during her tenure, Barbara and her entire team have performed incredibly well in terms of serving a growing population of library users and creating a model for a state-of-the-art library system. On behalf of our entire board, we appreciate Barbara's commitment, particularly for achieving excellent results in securing capital and operating funding and for effectively managing those resources to operate the system. We appreciate her integrity in informing the board of her decision now, and will initiate a process to search for a new director."

As President and Director, Dr. Mistick is responsible for shaping the strategic operation of the 115-year-old library system, which welcomes more than two million visitors annually and engages the community in lifelong literacy and learning.

During her tenure, Dr. Mistick oversaw a number of achievements for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, including attracting a defined base of donor support from individuals, foundations and corporations and attaining historic results in fundraising for the system's annual and capital campaigns.

Dr. Mistick's pivotal work on the Library's first-ever Capital Campaign led to the Library exceeding its \$55 million goal, reaching \$58 million in 2010. The Campaign has led to the successful modernization of more than one-half of the entire system's facilities, providing a range of library services and programs for children, teens and adults, and protecting the Library's historic collections.

###

About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Engaging our Community in Literacy and Learning

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh contributes to the educational attainment, economic development, and cultural enrichment of the region. Through critical services such as early learning programs for children, job search assistance and computer and Internet access, the Library fosters lifelong learning and is a renowned leader among the nation's libraries. With more than 2 million visitors and 3.5 million items borrowed each year, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset and one of the largest public libraries in Pennsylvania. Established in 1895 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie as a public trust to be funded by the community, the Library derives approximately 90% of its annual operating budget from public or government sources, including the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (RAD), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh.