

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Contact:**

Diana L. Klink  
757.514.4104  
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley  
757.514.4103  
757.871.3039

### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES SELECTED FOR AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

SUFFOLK, VA (June 2, 2015) Sarah Townsend, Assistant Director of Libraries at Suffolk Public Library, is one of only 40 librarians selected from a highly competitive national pool to participate in Leading to the Future, a four-day immersive leadership development program for future library leaders offered in August by the American Library Association (ALA).

“As the Suffolk Public Library continues to grow and take on bigger and more innovative projects, I’m excited to work on my capacity as a leader and bring back tools that will help our library team be stronger and better equipped to meet the challenges ahead of us,” said Townsend.

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The selection committee looked for a diverse participant mix based on type of library, professional responsibility, geography, gender, and race/ethnicity, as well as demonstrated leadership potential, readiness for increased responsibility, professional achievement, and community or campus involvement. Participants are expected to return to their library equipped with new skills for leading, coaching, collaborating, and engaging within their organizations and in the communities they serve, and prepared to identify, develop, and implement solutions which benefit everyone.

Led by leadership experts Maureen Sullivan (2012–2013 ALA President) and Kathryn Deiss (Content Strategist for the Association of College and Research Libraries), the institute takes place in August and is designed to help participants develop and practice their leadership skills so they can better help the libraries and the communities they serve thrive in a future that promises continued turbulence and uncertainty.

### **About the American Library Association**

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with approximately 52,000 members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

### **About Suffolk Public Library**

The Suffolk Public Library provides free learning and entertainment resources and experiences to the people of Suffolk and surrounding areas. With three locations – Chuckatuck, Morgan Memorial and North Suffolk – and robust outreach services, the Library offers free materials, computer access, classes and events to everyone from children to adults. Visit [www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com](http://www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com) to learn more