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LIBRARY SYSTEM SELECTS NEW DIRECTOR

This message is from Sharon A. Thomas, Chair, Library System Board of Trustees

In a unanimous vote, the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System has chosen Mary Jean Jakubowski, the Library's chief operating officer to the position of the Library System Director for a 3-year term. Ms. Jakubowski has worked for the Library System for the past 19 years in various capacities including as assistant deputy director of Human Resources; librarian in the Humanities and Social Sciences department; manager of Circulation, Stacks and Remote Reference; and as a part-time librarian at the Orchard Park Library. She has an MLS degree from the University of Buffalo and has served on the Library's leadership team, together with Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Stone.

After considering several candidates in an extensive national search for a new director, the board decided that they already had the best leader for the library in Ms. Jakubowski, a native of Buffalo, who will move the library forward to find a new governance model and sustainable funding plan.

"Mary Jean Jakubowski has the commitment, knowledge, leadership skills and energy to lead the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System," said Sharon A. Thomas, board chair. "She knows and loves our community, is immersed in dealing with the complexity of issues and challenges facing our libraries and has the utmost respect of our trustees, member libraries and library staff."

Ms. Thomas added that "the Library's trustees are confident that Ms. Jakubowski, working with Mr. Ken Stone and the dedicated staff, is the right person for our library at this time."

Mary Jean Jakubowski is president of the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) and past treasurer of Explore & More Children's Museum. Prior to joining the Library in 1992, Ms. Jakubowski spent 13 years in the healthcare industry. She resides in Lancaster with her husband, Larry and two daughters.

Mary Jean Jakubowski replaces Bridget Quinn-Carey who joined the Queens Library earlier this spring.

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