

PRESS RELEASE

WRL Director Named One of Top 50 Women Leaders of Virginia

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (April 7, 2023) – Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) Director Betsy Fowler was recognized in the *Women We Admire* Top 50 Women Leaders of Virginia for 2023 for her innovative and collaborative approach to library leadership spanning a four-decade career in public libraries.

“I am honored to be selected for this year’s list of Top 50 Women Leaders of Virginia,” Fowler said. “This recognition reflects the work of many people including the amazing library staff, dedicated volunteers, many library supporters, and the strong support of local government leaders. Everything wonderful that happens in a public library is the result of collaboration and the combined efforts of many people working together to serve our community.”



Williamsburg Regional Library Director Betsy Fowler was recognized as one of the top 50 women leaders in Virginia in 2023. High resolution photo available upon request.

Since she came on board to lead WRL in 2017, Fowler has been instrumental to many innovative programs and projects including the design and creation of the Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio at the James City County Library, a groundbreaking children’s space that integrates the existing collection of materials with children’s museum-style elements. She helped oversee a collaboration with William & Mary Libraries that established a new cooperative model for

college and public libraries and has contributed to several award-winning initiatives for the community, including a mobile hotspot program that provided much needed internet access to families during the pandemic.

As former director of libraries for the City of Chesapeake, Fowler obtained a Congressional Earmark and Department of Labor Grant to establish a Workforce Development Initiative for Hampton Roads that served thousands during the 2008-2012 recession. She was selected by the US Department of State in 2012 as a Visiting Professional to work with Greek libraries to assist with the country's economic challenges.

In recognition of her achievements in her field, Fowler has received the Virginia Public Relations Award for marketing public libraries, the Chesapeake City Manager Award, and the Virginia Library Staff Person of the Year Award.

Women We Admire is a news organization that recognizes the achievements of exceptional women while inspiring others to aim high and continue their journey towards reaching their full potential.

The Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) is an award-winning regional library system that consists of the Williamsburg Library on Scotland St. in Williamsburg, the James City County Library on Croaker Rd. in James City County, the Stryker Center on N. Boundary St. in Williamsburg, and its Mobile Library Services vehicles. The WRL service area includes the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County.

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