



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Steve Powell appointed Interim Director of Orange County Library System

Orange County Library System Chief Operating Office Steve Powell has been appointed Interim Director of the organization, following the retirement of longtime Library Director/CEO Mary Anne Hodel.

In spring 2021, Hodel announced that she would retire after 20 years of serving in the role. Her last day at the library was January 21. At its December meeting, the library system's Board of Trustees selected Powell to become Interim Director while a nationwide search is underway to find a permanent Library Director/CEO.

"Steve has been with the library system since 2007, and he's served in several roles that equip him to understand what the library system needs to run an efficient, customer-forward operation," said Board of Trustees President Crockett Bohannon. "The Board is confident that Steve's familiarity with library operations, facilities, staff and policies will serve him well in this role."

Since 2018, Powell has been the library's Chief Operating Officer, directly overseeing the Melrose Center, the library's Books by MAYL home delivery service, collection development, Questline call center, website, and overall usage statistics for the system. Prior to being named COO, he served as the library's Facilities and Operations Department Head for more than six years, during which time he helped expand the library's reach in the community by opening the Melrose Center and Chickasaw Branch, relocating the Hiawassee Branch, and expanding the parking lot of the North Orange Branch, among other projects. Prior to holding that position, Powell was the Service and Project Manager for the library. Powell holds Bachelor of Education degree from Georgia State University, and he is currently taking classes toward a Master of Library and Information Science degree at Valdosta State University.

"My goal is always to bring customers the best library experience possible," Powell said. "In my new role, I plan to continue focusing on the customer experience. Mary Anne guided us through some challenging times over the past 20 years, and her leadership has been an inspiration for all of us here at OCLS. I look forward to continuing on the path of integrity and excellence that she blazed for us."

In December, the Board of Trustees voted to hire library consultant June Garcia to conduct the search for Library Director. Garcia, who has more than 50 years experience working in public libraries, has worked on executive searches for a wide variety of library systems, including the Houston Public Library, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, Los Angeles Public Library, and Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

About the Orange County Library System

Orange County Library System is a public library system that operates 15 locations in Orange County. Its mission is to provide customers with opportunities to learn, explore and become the best that they can be by creating a learning environment that fosters personal growth and development. For more information about the Orange County Library system, visit ocls.info. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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