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**TWENTY YEAR VETERAN IN LIBRARY SERVICE NAMED
NEW CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Suzanne M. White, who is serving as Public Services Manager for the Rowan Public Library in Salisbury, North Carolina, has managed comprehensive library programs, services and personnel at two full service library branches in Rowan County for more than seven years, and has had a successful career in library services spanning more than twenty years, has been named Catawba County's new Library Director.



White succeeds Karen Foss, who will retire on February 1, 2013, after serving as the County's Library Director since July 1999.

As Library Director, Suzanne White will oversee the operation of the County's Library system, which includes seven branches across the county and has thirty employees and a current annual budget of \$2,165,037.

In her current position in Rowan County, White has managed comprehensive library programs, services, personnel and operations; led system wide public services including customer service and public relations; and participated in the overall development and management of library services system wide.

She has worked with the Rowan Library Director as senior manager in strategic planning and development of library services, policies, budgets, and facilities and served as Acting Director in the absence of the Library Director. She has also had oversight of the budgets for library programs and services, furnishings, technologies, equipment, and other special projects, has prepared accounting and reports as needed, and has assisted in the development of the overall library departmental budget.

"We're very pleased to have Suzanne join Catawba County as Library Director," said Dewey Harris, Assistant County Manager. "She emerged from 43 applicants from across the country after a rigorous interview process involving four department heads and the leadership team in the County Manager's Office. She is smart, strategic, and a natural collaborator who will actively engage citizens and library staff in delivering quality library services to our community. I look forward to Suzanne joining the County in February."

"In looking at this Catawba County Library directorship, I was immediately impressed with both the library system and the county government," White said. "I found Catawba County to be quite progressive and committed to not only providing high quality services for its citizens, but also to providing such thorough information about those services and operations. I am excited about becoming part of such a dedicated team."

“I hope that my enthusiasm and focus on building from strengths will bring positive leadership for the library and the county, and that my experience with and commitment to fostering collaboration, within the library, county government, and the community as a whole, will facilitate innovative and responsive library services that will empower and enrich the lives of our citizens,” White added.

After earning a Bachelor’s Degree in English and a teaching certificate in the late 1980s, followed by three years of service as a classroom teacher, White decided to pursue a career in Library Science and earned a Masters Degree in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994. She then served as a Library Assistant and Research Librarian at the Chapel Hill Public Library and Neuse Regional Library before beginning her work at the Rowan Public Library in 1994.

Since joining the Rowan Public Library, White has steadily risen to positions of increasing responsibility from Information Services Supervisor to Information Technology Supervisor, to her present position as Public Services Manager beginning in 2007.

White has been active in regional and national professional associations including the North Carolina Library Association, where she served as Publications Chair, the State Library of North Carolina's Marketing Ambassadors, the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, and the American Library Association. She served as Board President for the North Carolina TLC Users Group, which collaborates with librarians statewide in the use of and sharing of information regarding library automation systems. She has also been a member of the Rowan Arts Council.

White says she is looking forward to getting started with her new work in Catawba County.

“One of my first goals would be to get to know the unique services and operations of each library location and the people--staff and volunteers and advisory boards--who work to make it all happen!”, White said “I will also look forward to getting to know the communities we serve and learning how we can work together to provide library services and materials that inspire the spirit of exploration and support lifelong learning.”

White and her husband, Rex, have one daughter, Janssen, who is a senior at the North Carolina School of Science and Math.