



July 24, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **FIVE LOCAL LIBRARY STAFF GRADUATE FROM THE SUNSHINE STATE LIBRARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

Five Northwest Regional Library System staff members graduated from the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute on July 23, 2015. Participating in this prestigious institute were Nancy Brockman (Gulf County Coordinator); Regina Burgess (Community Relations and Marketing Coordinator); Stephen Efird (Head of Circulation at the Bay County Public Library); Lynn Elliott (Head of Adult Services at the Bay County Public Library); and Sam Hudson (Reference Librarian at the Bay County Public Library). Library Director Robin Shader served as a mentor this year for a participant from the West Florida Public Library. Panama City Beach Public Library Branch Manager Heather Ogilvie is a previous graduate of the Institute.

The Institute is one of several strategies developed to cultivate and enhance the leadership skills of Florida's library staff. This year-long comprehensive series of sessions focused on developing diverse leaders to serve in administrative roles at local, regional, state, and national levels, as well as reenergizing staff currently employed in the library and information management profession. As a result of the Institute, participants are better prepared to provide the highest quality library services to the citizens of Florida in an effective and innovative manner that will meet today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

"We were fortunate that this year's Institute was held in Marianna, so we were able to send several staff members," said Robin Shader, Library Director. "I'm very proud of all of our graduates. They each were required to complete a leadership project during the Institute, which greatly benefited them and the library."

Forty-seven people completed this year's 10-session Institute. The participants, who represent public, academic, special, and school libraries, were chosen from applicants statewide. Each participant was paired with a mentor, who offered them guidance throughout the year. The Institute has received nationwide recognition for its focus on mentoring and developing library leaders.

The Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute is sponsored by the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services. The Institute is funded by a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and is coordinated by the Northeast Florida Library Information Network.

###