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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Library Association announces change to executive leadership

SEATTLE (July 22, 2024) – The Washington Library Association (WLA) has named Lesley Bourne interim executive director effective immediately. Bourne joined WLA in 2020 and previously worked for NCW Libraries. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business management from Western Governors University, a bachelor’s in English from Central Washington University (CWU), and a certificate in library and information science from CWU.

Bourne steps into the position filled by Brianna Hoffman since January 2020. During her tenure as executive director, Hoffman aided in merging the Washington chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries into WLA’s Academic Library Division. Additionally, she helped guide WLA’s transition from a 501c4 to a 501c3 nonprofit organization as of 2022. Prior to holding the position, Hoffman was WLA President from 2016-2017, and WLA Board Director from 2014-2016.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as Executive Director for the last 4.5 years and working with multiple WLA boards, committees and leaders,” says Hoffman. “I know I’m leaving WLA in very caring and capable hands.” Hoffman begins a new role this month with the Washington State Library as Training Coordinator/Consultant.

WLA is a professional organization of over 1,200 members of librarians, library workers, and library advocates in Washington State. The organization was founded by a coalition in 1905 and was merged in 1909 with the then newly-formed Pacific Northwest Library Association. WLA was briefly organized as the Puget Sound Library Association before being re-established in its current form in 1932.

A chapter of the American Library Association, the WLA leads, advocates, educates, and connects. Learn more at www.wla.org.

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