



PRESS RELEASE

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Jennifer Lena Selected as New Executive Director of Mississippi Library Commission

Jackson, Miss – The Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) Board has selected Jennifer Lena, the agency’s current Deputy Executive Director, as its next Executive Director. Lena will assume the role effective March 21, 2026, succeeding director Hulen Bivins, who has announced his retirement.

Lena brings more than 15 years of experience at MLC to the position, along with a commitment to strengthening library services across the state. Reflecting on her work and future goals, Lena emphasized the importance of libraries and their community impact.

“One of the most satisfying parts of my job is hearing library staff share stories about the profound impact their libraries have made in the lives of individual patrons,” Lena said. “Looking ahead, I hope the next 15 years bring innovation and growth. More than anything, I want to see libraries remain what they’ve always been at their core: welcoming, essential hubs for their communities.”

Lena joined the Mississippi Library Commission in 2010 as Fiscal Services Director, where she oversaw the agency’s finance department. In 2014, she was promoted to Administrative Services Director, expanding her leadership to include Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Grants, and Technology Services. In November 2024, she stepped into her current role as Deputy Executive Director.

An alumna of Belhaven University, Lena holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Management. She also earned a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi.

With a strong background in administration, finance, and management, Lena is well positioned to guide the Mississippi Library Commission into its next chapter of service and innovation.

The Mississippi Library Commission is committed, through leadership, advocacy and service, to strengthening and enhancing libraries and library services for all Mississippians. For more information, call 601-432-4002 or email pr@mlc.lib.ms.us.

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