Press Release

Defiance Public Library System

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Renee Hopper Named Director of Defiance Public Library System

DEFIANCE — Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) is pleased to announce that following an internal interview process, Renee Hopper has been appointed to serve as the system's next director, effective December 1.

Hopper brings extensive experience, institutional knowledge, and a deep commitment to serving the communities. Her career with the library began in June 2000, when she joined Defiance Public Library as a page.

Following her high school graduation in 2002, she was hired as a Circulation Assistant, a position she held for five years. In 2008, she became the system's Early Literacy Specialist, and in 2018 she took on the role of Reference and Technical Services Manager.

Hopper holds a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Defiance College and completed the Library Leadership of Ohio training program in 2021.

Throughout her career at DPLS, Hopper has contributed to initiatives that expand library services and respond to community needs. As Early Literacy Specialist, she presented baby, toddler, and preschool storytimes at all three

library locations (Defiance, Sherwood, and Hicksville). In her role as Reference and Technical Services Manager, Hopper drew on her experience at each location to help guide the development of services including mobile hotspots available for borrowing, NewspaperArchive as a digital resource, and the Library of Things. She also worked extensively with staff and community members to secure an Ohio Historic Marker for Worthington Cemetery, Defiance County's only known historic Black cemetery.

Hopper's professional service extends beyond DPLS. She currently serves on the Ohio Library Council's Management and Administration Committee and the Content Advisory Board for the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN). She is also secretary of the Friends of Worthington Cemetery.

"I am looking forward to serving in our communities and continuing to help meet the needs of our patrons," Hopper said. "Libraries are not only sources for books and information but are also community centers. I want the communities that our system serves to continue to see our libraries as places, and people, they can come to for help."

Hopper added, "I am committed to serving the patrons at all three of our locations."

Outgoing Director Cara Potter's last official day will be November 30. Interim Director Rob Giesige will remain with the system until January 1 to support the leadership transition.