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News - Athens Regional Library System

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Athens Regional Library System

The Athens Regional Library System is pleased to announce the system's new director, Valerie Bell.

In her position as regional director, Bell will be responsible for the administration of library services within the five-county Athens Regional Library System and the Talking Book Outreach program that serves twenty-two counties in northeast Georgia. Bell will provide supervision of libraries, personnel management, planning, financial reporting, and grant management for the system as well as work with the Athens-Clarke County Library's Endowment Fund, the local library boards, and the Friends in the five-county region.

Bell comes to Athens from Toms River, New Jersey, where she served as Assistant Director for Public Services at the Ocean County Library, a library system which serves a population of 550,000 residents with an annual circulation of over four million. She has over twenty-eight years of experience at Ocean County Library, having served in positions such as librarian, branch manager, supervising librarian, chief

librarian, and assistant director. Bell is the recipient of several awards, most recently the Ocean County Library Director's Award for Outstanding Service (2013), Women of Purpose Community Leader of the Year (2012), and NAACP Community Leader of the Year (2011).

"I am excited to be here in Athens, and I look forward to getting to know our staff and community," Bell said. "I am eager to work with the staff, the Library Boards, the Friends and community groups within our service area," said Bell.



Bell received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in history and political science from William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and her Master's of Library Science degree from St. John's University in Queens, New York. She is also a graduate of levels I-VI of the State of New Jersey Certified Public Manager program.

The Athens Regional Library System is headquartered at the Athens-Clarke County Library, 2025 Baxter Street, Athens. For information about library services and programs, call the library at 706-613-3650, or log onto athenslibrary.org.