



Timberland
Regional
Library

News Release

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TRL Introduces Candidates for Executive Director

The final four candidates for the vacant Timberland Regional Library (TRL) Executive Director position will make presentations and respond to questions from the public at upcoming forums being held in each of the library district's five counties in early June. All candidates are current directors of public library systems in the United States. Their names and brief biographies are listed below.

Barbara Pickell is a graduate of the University of Washington with a BA in English and an MLS (Master of Library Science) from Emporia State University. Ms. Pickell has been the Library Director of Clearwater Public Library System in Florida since 2005 where she oversees 4 branches, 89 staff and an annual budget of \$5.7 Million. Previous positions include Library Director of Wayne Public Library in New Jersey from 1995 to 2003, Library Director of Fairfield County District Library in Ohio from 2003-2005, and Area Branch Manager in Clark County for Ft. Vancouver Regional Library. Current affiliations include: American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), IFRT, GLBT, Intellectual Freedom Committee and American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). "I strongly support quality service to all portions of the diverse population that makes up our world today, the use of technology to meet patron needs, and the protection of intellectual freedom. I also believe that flexibility, innovation and problem solving are crucial in developing and providing library service."

Linda Mielke is currently Director of the Butte County Library in California. She served previously as the CEO of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library; Director of the Carroll County Public Library and Interim assignments in Texas and Oregon. Some key professional accomplishments are building libraries, strategic plans, marketing plans and an organization design plan. Ms. Mielke planned a library consortium and established a foundation and endowment in Maryland. She was elected President of the Public Library Association. She has served on many community boards including United Way and Rape Crisis Center. She is a graduate of Wayne State University and was awarded Alumna of the Year. "Throughout my career, I have developed and managed cross-functional teams and led organizational re-engineering plans that have positively impacted the bottom line. I feel confident in my abilities to generate superior results for the Timberland team."

Leonard Hernandez is a graduate of Cal State Fullerton with a BA in History and a Master's of Library Sciences (MLS) from Clarion University. Mr. Hernandez is currently the Library Director for the City of Riverside with 7 branches, 103 FTE and a budget of over \$8 Million. Previous positions include Assistant Library Manager, Branch Manager and Regional Library manager for the San Bernardino Library System in California. Current affiliations include ALA, PLA, and the California Library Association (CLA). "During the past twelve years of my library

career I have developed skills that have enabled me to lead and supervise employees, peers, new building projects, the development of new library programs, rejuvenation of library support groups, and collaboratively work with county and city representatives in complex situations to achieve successful library services.”

Michael Crose is a graduate of Central Washington University with a BA in Business Administration and Economics as well as a Master’s Degree in Public Administration (MPA) from The Evergreen State College; Mr. Crose is enrolled in Wayne State’s Master’s of Library and Information Sciences (MLIS) program. Currently TRL’s Interim Executive Director responsible for managing all aspects of a multi-county rural library district of 27 branches, he was the Manager, Administrative Services since 2006. Previous positions include President of C & M Technology, BJSS Architects, Inc., and Timberland Regional Library’s Assistant Director for Management Services from 1980-1994. Current affiliations include ALA, PLA, Washington Library Association (WLA), Pacific County Council of Governments and the Grays Harbor Council of Governments. “I know from experience that I have the financial, political and organizational skills necessary to guide the Timberland Regional Library through the coming years of change. I believe my experience as a senior manager has earned me the trust and respect of staff at all levels... I also have a vision for the library of the future that blends the upcoming high-tech tools with our more traditional high-touch services.”

Public forums will take place at the following dates, locations and times:

Monday, June 7

Chehalis Timberland Library 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8

South Bend Timberland Library 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Montesano Timberland Library 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Tumwater Timberland Library 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 9

Shelton Timberland Library 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Candidate forums will be held in the library meeting room, where available. Although some libraries will be closed during all or part of the forums, access for the public will be provided. For questions about the forums, ask your local Timberland Library staff, call 800-562-6022 (704-4636 in the Olympia area) or visit www.TRL.org.

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and 7 library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library’s program may contact the library one week in advance.