



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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### News Release

## Martie Smith Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

**December 12, 2013, Monroe, NC** – Union County Executive Director of Community Services Martie Smith was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) Winter Meeting on Dec. 5.

Considered annually, the Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a North Carolina public library director retiring or leaving the public library profession. The recipient will have by their creativity, fidelity, leadership and professionalism, increased the quality of library service to all patrons in their community. This award encompasses the contributions of an individual over an entire career or lifetime.

“Martie’s career in librarianship has been exemplary and truly embodies the four criteria for this award: creativity, fidelity, leadership and professionalism,” said Anna Yount, director of Transylvania County Library.

Smith began her career in public librarianship in 1980, and during the past 33 years, her contributions to the profession have been broad and lasting. She has served as library director at Wyoming County Library and Alpha Regional Library in West Virginia. In 1986, Smith became director of the four-county Pettigrew Regional Library System in northeastern North Carolina where she introduced technology to the rural library system and secured state and local funding for building additions.

In 2004, Smith was appointed director of the Union County Public Library, where she inherited a staff that had tripled in size following an aggressive building program. She shifted the system’s focus from buildings to staff training and customer service. She built an effective team and developed a new strategic plan.

Smith was an active NCPLDA member for 27 years and served as the NCPLDA delegate to the North Carolina Library Commission from 1994-2001. She served on the executive board of the NCPLDA from 1994-2001 and served as president of the association in 1998. In January 2002, she was honored with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

“My library career has been a source of great joy and gratification, and I am fortunate to have had such wonderful libraries to work in,” Smith said. “I’m glad my new role for Union County enables me to continue to be involved with these wonderful libraries.”

In the summer of 2013, Smith was appointed executive director of Union County Community Services, which consists of the Union County Public Library, Parks and Recreation, N.C. Cooperative Extension, and Union Soil and Water Conservation.