

Christal Bell-Rivera

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Wes Moreno  
County Administrator  
221 Palafox Place  
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear County Administrator Moreno,

As Interim Director of West Florida Public Libraries (WFPL), I am writing to express my interest in continuing to lead WFPL as its permanent Director. In my current role, I provide executive leadership for an eight-branch library system serving more than 330,000 residents, overseeing 113 staff members, managing a \$12.5 million budget, and advancing multi-year strategic initiatives that support operational excellence, staff engagement, and community-centered service.

During my interim tenure, I have ensured continuity and guided the system through complex operational and organizational challenges. I have strengthened internal leadership and staff development, expanded community partnerships, and advanced key capital initiatives, including our forthcoming ninth library. These efforts have maintained momentum and positioned the system for long-term sustainability and growth.

My leadership approach is grounded in collaboration, accountability, and public service. As a lifelong resident of this community, I bring a deep understanding of local needs and a strong commitment to ensuring WFPL remains an essential civic resource that supports literacy, lifelong learning, workforce development, and community connection.

In addition to my executive experience, I am completing my Master's degree in Library Science at Florida State University, with graduation anticipated in May 2026. This academic work complements my practical leadership by integrating current best practices, emerging trends, and professional standards, which will continue to strengthen the system's responsiveness and innovation.

Appointing a permanent Director from within would provide stability for staff, patrons, and community partners and sustain the progress already underway. I am prepared to continue leading WFPL with clarity, consistency, and a strong focus on strategic outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how my continued leadership can best serve the library system, our staff, and Escambia County residents.

Sincerely,

*Christal Bell-Rivera*