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| Contact: John Jones  ABC Public Library  999-999-9999  jsmith@abclibrary.org | 123 Main Street  Anywhere, USA 12345 | ABC Public Library |

Press Release

# ABC Library selected for 2018 Inclusive Internship Initiative

## *Joins 50 other libraries from 35 U.S. states in hosting interns from diverse backgrounds*

Anywhere, USA, June 2, 2018: --- **ABC Public Library** announced today that it will participate in a connected learning internship program this summer sponsored by the [Public Library Association](http://www.ala.org/pla/) (PLA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Through its [Inclusive Internship Initiative (III)](https://apply.ala.org/plinterns), PLA is sponsoring paid, mentored public library internships for 50 high school juniors and seniors from diverse backgrounds. With individual guidance from a mentor, each intern will engage with multiple facets of library life, from administration to programming to user services. Over the course of the summer, interns and mentors will develop and complete a project (describe your intern’s specific project here).

This project will have an immediate benefit to the libraries and student participants. Library staff will better understand early career pathways to librarianship and gain appreciation for their role and impact in supporting diversity along those paths. Students will better understand the many ways librarians positively serve their communities, and gain the tools to make decisions about the educational directions that will lead them into library service and leadership. Interns will have opportunities to connect with one another, and mentors across the country, to share what they are learning and doing through live and virtual channels, creating a ripple effect of learning and awareness.

**ABC Public Library** has selected **Jennifer Smith** as its intern for summer 2018. **Ms. Smith** will enter her senior year at **ABC Community High School** this fall. The selection was made based on Johnson’s academic standing, application essay, and a letter of recommendation. **Ms. Smith** will work closely with her appointed mentor, **Director of User Services Janet Thomas**, throughout the internship. Thomas and Smith will travel to Washington, D.C. later this month for III’s summer kick-off event.

This program is funded by PLA with support from a pre-professional Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant (grant RE-00-17-0129-17) from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](http://www.imls.gov/).

Additional information about the Inclusive Internship Initiative can be found at <https://apply.ala.org/plinterns2018>.

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**About PLA**

The [Public Library Association](http://www.pla.org/) (PLA) is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 10,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world. PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders.