



**Sophia Sotilleo**

Dean, Thurgood Marshall Library  
Bowie State University  
Bowie, State MD

**Type of Library:** Academic

**Statement of Professional Concerns:**

“Without libraries what do we have? We have no past and no future.” This quote by Ray Bradberry keeps me motivated to serve as a librarian and as a member of the American Library Association (ALA) and additional library organizations.

The work that Librarians do and the service offered by all types of libraries is important and continues to increase in importance because it is our past and our future. It may sound like a tall order to fill, however history shows we have been accomplishing this task in awesome ways. This is why the current challenges that we encounter by our colleagues, community and our government is beyond concerning. The number of Librarians turning away from the profession citing concerns for their safety and mental health should not be happening. The concerns that I hear from various Library Organizations regarding membership and financial concerns can be overwhelming.

I strongly believe in the “team work makes the dream work” approach. This is what I have witnessed as an ALA member, we mobilize and move forward together to deal with current challenges and prepare for the challenges ahead that can only be done as a team. I also believe in our superpower of “cosmic focus”, our ability to tune out the noise and get the job done.

I am proud to be a Librarian, and a member of the Illustrious ALA organization. We continue to show that we are the head and not the tail that supports the field of librarianship. Our knowledgeable and resilient leaders do great work for members and the community we serve. I am excited and looking forward to joining the Executive team to contribute to the super power of ‘cosmic focus’ and the “team work makes the dream work” approach, to continue the great and challenging work ahead.

**Library/Leadership Service Positions:**

- Vice President, Freedom to Read Foundation, (2022- Present)
- Associate Professor, Interim Library Director, Langston Hughes Memorial Library, PA, (2012-2022)
- Executive Board Member – Delaware Women's Coalition, Wilmington Delaware (2018-2022)
- Board Member- Delaware New Castle County Advisory Library Board, (2017-Present)
- Co-Chair Contract Negotiation Team - Lincoln University, American Association University Professors (AAUP) (2014-2021)

**Education:**

- Leadership Institute Academic Librarians: Certificate. Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Cambridge, MA August 2014
- Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA School of Information Sciences, Masters in Library and Information Sciences, 2012.
- Lincoln University, Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management, 2010

**Fellowship**

- Association of Research (ARL) Leadership Fellow 2021–2022

**Affiliation(s):**

- FTRF (Freedom to Read Foundation), Intellectual Freedom Council, BCLA (Black Caucus of ALA Association), DLA (Delaware Library Association), MLA Maryland Library Association) AAUW (American Association University Woman

**Number of Years as an ALA Member:** 12