

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT  
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# News Release

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## ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR

The Board of Trustees of the Alabama Department of Archives and History announces the election of Steve Murray as the agency's new director. Murray will become the sixth director in the Archives' 111-year history, succeeding Edwin Bridges, who will retire on September 30, after leading the institution for 30 years.

The election follows a three-month, nationwide search by the Board. Although the Board considered applications from across the United States, it concluded that Murray has the best combination of skills, education, and experience for the job.

Murray has worked in Alabama history for sixteen years and has already been recognized as a statewide leader. While a graduate student at Auburn University, Murray began working in 1996 as an assistant to the editor of the *Alabama Review*, the state's scholarly historical journal. By 2000, he was managing the journal's editorial process, production, and budget.

When the online *Encyclopedia of Alabama* was formed, Murray also became its managing editor. For four years, he coordinated content development, technical development, and overall administration.

In 2006, Murray joined the staff of the Alabama Department of Archives and History as Assistant Director for Administration. At the Archives, he has handled a wide range of responsibilities ranging from capital projects and budgeting to fundraising and publication of the *Alabama Guide*.

Murray oversaw contract management and administration for the fabrication and installation of Phase I of the Museum of Alabama, which opened in August 2011.

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In addition to his direct work responsibilities, Murray has been active in a variety of statewide history programs and services. He has helped coordinate efforts for the commemorative activities of the *Becoming Alabama* initiative. He has written articles for *Alabama Heritage* magazine and has worked with scholars in a variety of fields from across the state. In April, he completed a term as president of the Alabama Historical Association.

Ed Bridges, who has been Murray's supervisor at the Archives, said, "Steve is one of the smartest, ablest, and most hard-working people I have ever known. We would not have survived all of the changes of the last six years without him."

Shirley McCrary of Mooresville, the Board's Vice Chair and coordinator of the executive search process, said, "We are fortunate to have had Steve as a candidate. His knowledge of Alabama history should help make for a seamless transition, and we look forward to his leadership, which we expect will raise the Archives' services to even higher levels in the years to come."

The Chairman of the Archives' Board of Trustees, George Evans of Selma, said that he shared Mrs. McCrary's enthusiasm. "I have watched Steve work for six years now. He has handled a wide range of duties and brought a level of excellence that we all have admired. I think he will be a great leader for the Archives."

Upon his election, Murray remarked, "It is a tremendous honor to be asked to lead this great institution in the next phase of its service to the people of Alabama. The Archives has magnificent collections, a staff of dedicated professionals, and a reputation for integrity, all cultivated under Ed Bridges' leadership. Moving forward, we will build on our strengths in ways that are true to that legacy even as we reach out to new generations of Alabamians and invite them to develop an appreciation for our past."

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