

ACRL Candidates for 2025

A Look at Who's Running

Dawn Behrend is the Dean of the University Libraries at Lenoir-Rhyne University, a position she has held since 2024. Behrend has held several other positions at Lenoir-Rhyne University, including Instruction and Outreach Librarian (2019–2024) and Adjunct Instruction and Reference Librarian (2016–2019).

During her 11 years of ACRL membership, Behrend has served as vice-chair (2023–2024) and chair (2024–present) of the ACRL College Libraries Section (CLS); ex-officio member of the ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award Committee (2024–present); member of the ACRL Appointments Committee (2023–2024); vice-chair (2020–2021), chair (2021–2022), and past-chair (2022–2023) of the ACRL Chapters Council; and as a member (2017–2018), vice-chair (2018–2019), and chair (2019–2020) of the ACRL Membership Committee.



Behrend has held various positions within the ACRL Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS), including member-at-large on the Executive Committee (2023–2025); secretary of the EBSS Psychology Committee (2023–2024); member of the EBSS Nominating 2024 Committee (2022–2024); member of the EBSS Conference Program Planning Committee (2021–2023); member of the EBSS Membership and Orientation Committee (2021–2023); member (2017–2020) and co-chair (2020–2022) of the EBSS Reference Sources and Services Committee; and member (2017–2018) and co-chair (2018–2020) of the EBSS Higher Education Committee.

Behrend's experience with ALA includes being a member of the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (2017–2019).

Behrend's activity with state, regional, and other national associations include serving on the North Carolina Library Association (vice-president/president-elect, 2021–2023, and president, 2023–present), North Carolina Library Association ACRL-NC Chapter (chair, 2019–2021, and past-chair, 2021–2023), NC LIVE HomeGrown Selection Working Group (member, 2018–2024), Appalachian College Association Collection Development Committee (member, 2023–present), and Appalachian College Association Programming and Membership Committee (member, 2016–2020).

Behrend's honors and awards include Appalachian College Association grant recipient (2018 and 2021) and the North Carolina Library Association First-Time Attendee Scholarship (2016).

Other notable accomplishments for Behrend include her role as the Dean of the Libraries at Lenoir-Rhyne University, where she manages the integration of a library collection

of more than 100,000 volumes into the existing library on the main campus. This project has involved logistical planning, weeding, budgeting, communicating with stakeholders, re-envisioning existing spaces, and developing familiarity with a specialized collection on the main campus.

Additionally, Behrend is a second-career librarian with a previous career as a master's level clinical psychologist where she has used this knowledge to provide workshops for library professionals on the topics of self-care, neurodiversity, and mental illness including being an invited speaker in nine states and Canada.

Behrend has been a prolific contributor to the library science literature having completed 21 works, of which 15 are either a peer-reviewed chapter or a journal article. She has also served as the chair of the conference planning committee for three conferences, one of which was the statewide NCLA biennial conference with close to 800 attendees.

Her publications include “Supporting the Academic and Mental Health Needs of First-Generation Students: An Exploration of Library Services, Outreach, and Mental Health Advocacy in Fostering the Success of First-Generation Students” in O. Patterson and M. L. Rood (eds.), *Student Success Librarianship: Critical Perspectives on an Evolving Profession* (ACRL, forthcoming); “Fostering Awareness of Neurodiversity at a Liberal Arts University Library via Dedicated Collections, Targeted Library Events, and Cross-Campus Collaborations” in A. M. Boyer and A. R. El-Chidiac (eds.), *Supporting Neurodiverse Students in Libraries* (ACRL, forthcoming); and “Distinguishing Depression from Burnout: Implications for Impactful Interventions for Long-Term Improvement” in C. Holm, A. Guimaraes, and N. Marcano (eds.), *Academic Librarian Burnout: Causes and Responses* (ACRL, 2022).

Alexia Hudson-Ward is the Associate Director of Research, Learning, and Strategic Partnerships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Libraries, a position she has held since October 2020. Prior to her current role, Hudson-Ward served as the Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries, Oberlin College and Conservatory (2016–2020), and Associate Librarian, Reference and Instruction, Pennsylvania State University Libraries Abington College and the Great Valley School of Professional Studies (2006–2016).



During her 22 years of ACRL membership, Hudson-Ward has held several positions on the ACRL Conference Committees, including chair of the ACRL 2025 Conference (2023–2025), co-chair of the ACRL 2023 Conference Keynotes Committee (2021–2023), and a member of the ACRL 2011 Conference Virtual Conference Committee (2009–2011).

Hudson-Ward has also served on the ACRL College Libraries Section (CLS) as past chair (2020–2021), chair (2019–2020), vice-chair (2018–2019). She was a member of the ACRL Budget and Finance Committee (2016–2020), co-chair of the ACRL Instruction Section (IS) ALA Midwinter Conference Instruction Section Soiree (2007–2008), and a member of the ACRL Marketing to Academic and College Libraries Committee (2007–2010). Hudson-Ward also served as a member of the ACRL Instruction Section and the Women and Gender Studies Section (2007–2009), the ACRL IS Instruction for Diverse Populations Committee (2007–2009), and a member of the ACRL IS Advisory Committee (2007–2008).

Hudson-Ward's experience with ALA includes Life Membership in ALA and the Black Caucus of ALA. She has also served as a member of the ALA Executive Board (2012–2015) and divisional executive board liaison to ACRL, ALSC, and United for Libraries. She was also the ALA Councilor representing the Pennsylvania State Chapter (2010–2015). Hudson-Ward was a member of the ALA Committee on Professional Ethics (2020–2021); a member of the ALA Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (2018–2020); a member of the ALA Budget and Planning Assembly (2011–2015); a member of the ALA Training, Orientation, and Leadership Development Committee (2007–2011); a member-mentor for the ALA Emerging Leader Program (2008–2009); and a member of the ALA Recruitment Assembly (2007–2008). She is currently a member of the Library History Round Table (LHRT).

Hudson-Ward's activity with state, regional, and other national associations include serving as the Pennsylvania Library Association's ALA Chapter Councilor (2010–2015); a Board of Directors member (2010–2015); and chair of the Annual Conference Evaluation (2008–2010). She also served at the Pennsylvania African American Library Association as president (2007–2008), vice-president/president-elect (2006–2007), and immediate past-president (2008–2009).

Hudson-Ward's honors and awards include ALA Emerging Leader (2007), the Pennsylvania Library Association's New Librarian of the Year (2007), a *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker (2008), Penn State Great Valley School of Professional Studies Faculty Diversity Achievement Award (2008), and the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences Outstanding Young Alumni Award (2013). She was a Penn State Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program Fellow (2013–2014) and a UCLA Library Senior Fellow 2024 cohort member.

Other notable accomplishments for Hudson-Ward include co-creating the successful MIT Libraries-ACRL Diversity Alliance Administrative Fellow program to prepare underrepresented talent for future academic library leadership. During her tenure as Oberlin College's first BIPOC director of libraries, she spearheaded naming the main library after civil rights leader Mary Church Terrell and supported an educational partnership with the Smithsonian.

Hudson-Ward's board memberships, both past (LYRASIS and Center for Research Libraries) and current (*The Conversation* US edition and the Corning Museum of Glass) support the global library community, scholars, writers, and artists across the disciplines through publishing, research, curatorial, and shared resourcing. As a faculty member of Harvard's Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians and a nonprofit volunteer, she has positively impacted nearly 1,000 leaders as a leadership development educator.

Additionally, Hudson-Ward conceptualized Choice Publishing's *Toward Inclusive Excellence*, an award-nominated multimedia blog that advances discourse regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, belonging, and social justice in higher education, along with Mark Cummings and Bill Mickey, serving as its inaugural editor-in-chief for three years.

Her publications include co-authoring, with Dustin Fife, "Professional Development" in *A Starter's Guide for Academic Library Leaders: Advice in Conversation*, edited by Amanda Clay Powers, Martin Garnar, and Dustin Fife (ALA Editions, 2019); co-editing, with Julie Rodrigues Widholm and Scott Walter, *Cultural Heritage and the Campus Community: Academic Libraries and Museums in Collaboration* (ACRL, 2022); and authoring "Open, Inclusive and Diverse" in *Library 2035: Imagining the Next Generation of Libraries*, edited by Sandra Hirsh (Rowman and Littlefield, 2024).

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