



## **East Baton Rouge Parish Library**

7711 Goodwood Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
70806

### **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **LIBRARY DIRECTOR RESIGNS**

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library Director, Lydia M. Acosta, has announced that she is resigning from the Library. Acosta has accepted the position of Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She will begin her new position on Tuesday, July 1.

Acosta received her A.A. degree from Brevard Community College, her B.A. degree in Spanish secondary education from the University of South Florida, and her M.A. degree in library science from the University of Florida. She began her library career at the University of Tampa. She worked there for over twenty years and was Library Director for eighteen of those years. Acosta next served as Dean of Library and Learning Resources at Chicago State University. From there she was appointed as Director of the Fountaindale Public Library District in the Chicago suburbs.

Acosta came to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library in August 2003. During her tenure as Director, the Library has flourished. Acosta has overseen the completion of four new libraries to replace outdated facilities. These include the Zachary Branch Library, Carver Branch Library, Pride-Chaneyville Branch Library, and Eden Park Branch Library. The Delmont Gardens Branch Library was expanded and plans are underway for a new Main Library in Independence

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## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR RESIGNS**

**ADD 1**

Park. Progress has also been made to establish two new branches in the south and eastern parts of the parish. An 11.1 renewal tax for the maintenance and operations of the Library system was also successfully passed in 2005.

As Director during the constantly evolving digital age, Acosta has expanded Library services to include increased public access to computers, the Internet, and web tools. This past fall, the Library introduced OverDrive – a program that allows patrons to check-out and download audio books, e-books, and videos from their home computers.

The Library has developed additional outreach programs under Acosta's leadership. The Library now attends numerous festivals and expos each year and presents seminars and workshops throughout the parish. The Library has also established an outreach collection at the Juvenile Detention Center as well as collections in Head Start and Early Head Start Centers.

Acosta's new position will include management of the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. As the largest library in Florida, it is a model of a successful public-private partnership between a private university and local government. University and public services are offered together in a beautiful 350,000 square foot joint-use facility complete with theatre, café, and gallery space. "While I have loved working in the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, I was unable to resist this challenge to use my combined experience of university and public library service," says Acosta. "The people of Baton Rouge have welcomed me with open arms. I have treasured my time here and found it to be both personally and professionally rewarding. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you."

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