


WILKES * ASHE * WATAUGA
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 2025

Administration & Personnel

- Ashe: Hiring a temporary Adult Services Assistant (PT)
- Watauga: Hiring a Youth Services Manager (FT)
- Wilkes: All positions are filled.
- Evaluations (2024) and WDPs (FY 2025-26) are due June 30.
- Unemployment claim
- Director of Libraries search update: We have had 8 applicants, 3 interviews to date and 2 more are scheduled for the week of March 10. The position has been posted and reposted on state, regional, and national job boards, as appropriate.

Grant Updates

- NCDIT Digital Champion Grant - \$361K received to date, \$357K of those funds have been spent.
- NC Dept. of Commerce Downtown Development Fund Grant: Watauga County has been awarded \$125,000, plus a 5% match by the County for the Watauga County Public Library renovation.
- LSTA 2025-26 Grants submitted for each library; award notifications will be received on June 5

Policy

- Meeting Room revision
- Personnel Policy revision

Technology Updates

- Installing new patron PCs throughout the region. We've encountered a handful of issues related to software compatibility, but we're making good progress regardless.
- Replaced our firewall using grant funds. The firewall provides content filtering, bandwidth management, and many security features for all locations.
- Our E-Rate application for funding year 2025-2026 has been reviewed. We expect an approval letter to arrive in the next 2 months.