



## Dean Carol Hixson Envisions Making Libraries More Engaging

Carol Hixson, the new Dean of University Libraries at Florida Atlantic University, is passionate about making FAU Libraries more inviting, functional and conducive for collaboration. She envisions flexible, vibrant work spaces that will allow students to connect with each other. The look and feel of the reconfigured spaces will not be that of your “grandmother’s library,” she said.

“There will be new kinds of physical and virtual spaces for students to work together, to practice presentations, and to create their own works,” said Hixson, who began her post at FAU on August 11. “The spaces and the services will evolve to reflect what students need to be successful.”

Hixson is joining FAU after working as a librarian for 31 years in some of North America’s leading academic research libraries. She has a “student-first” attitude and revels in creating learning environments that encourage scholarship and technological advances. Her goal at FAU Libraries is to position the Libraries “front and center” in FAU’s “Race to Excellence.”

“The Libraries and everyone in them are here first and foremost to help the students of this university succeed,” said the Dean.

In addition to space redesign, Hixson plans to focus on strategies to help to recruit and retain students, support faculty and student research, expand Open Access digital collections, and extend library services to diverse populations.

Hixson is also anxious to build on FAU Libraries’ community outreach programs and foster ties with donors of the Libraries’ extraordinary and rare collections which have brought FAU national attention. She also wants to forge relations with prospective donors.

As she reaches out to the community, her lifelong interest in other cultures and different points of view will be an asset. Hixson has studied six foreign languages and has a bachelor’s degree with honors in Spanish language and literature from Grinnell College, a private liberal arts college known for its rigorous academics and tradition of social responsibility. After earning her bachelor’s, Hixson went on to earn a Master of Science in Information Studies degree from Drexel University. She has been honored as a model of a 21st century librarian who represents the best in team building and demolishing barriers to service and access.

Prior to coming to FAU, Hixson was Dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, where in 2011, she launched a project to redesign the library’s space that resulted in record numbers of students using the library. During her career, Hixson has also been University Librarian at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada and has held top posts in libraries at the University of Oregon, UCLA, and Indiana University.

“I am delighted that Ms. Hixson has joined FAU’s academic leadership team,” said Gary W. Perry, Ph.D., FAU’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. “I am looking forward to working with her as we transform our library for the 21st century.”