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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Jo Ann Henson to receive 2019 Distinguished Library Faculty Award**

FAIRFAX, VA – March 21, 2019: Jo Ann Henson, Business and Economics Librarian, has been selected for the 2019 Distinguished Library Faculty Award. With twenty years' experience in the academic librarianship field, she is a highly skilled and dedicated professional.

Since 2012, Ms. Henson has been the Business and Economics Librarian at the George Mason University Libraries, and her tenure has been marked by her active involvement in forming key partnerships with the School of Business and the Department of Economics and providing support for their students' and faculty's research endeavors. In addition to research and reference support, she leads over 40 instructional sessions each semester as well as ensures the Libraries' business and economics resources are current, up-to-date, and reflective of a broad array of disciplinary needs.

Prior to joining Mason, Henson was the Business Reference Librarian at Louisiana State University (LSU), where she was responsible for launching an annual "Meet Your Librarian" Day and for being the first librarian to schedule "embedded" office hours within the Business School. Prior to LSU, she worked as a librarian in both corporate and medical institution settings.

Among her colleagues in the Mason Libraries, Henson is recognized as personable, knowledgeable, and innovative. She is recognized by the faculty in the School of Business and the Economics Department (within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences) for her "dedication to student learning and success," for "actively fostering teaching, learning, and research activities," and for being a "hardworking, dedicated, and talented librarian." Among all of her colleagues – within the Libraries, across the university, and external to Mason – common themes are her collaborative nature, entrepreneurial drive, and imaginative spirit.

In addition to her role at Mason Libraries, Henson is an active presenter at conferences and workshops, as well as heavily engaged in professional associations such as the American Library Association (ALA) and the Capital Area Business Librarians group (CABAL). As a founding member of CABAL and the current chair, she is recognized by her peers as a dedicated and conscientious leader. Henson's academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Library and Information Science, both from LSU.

Of the award John Zenelis, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, said, "I am pleased to announce the award committee's selection of Jo Ann Henson for this year's Distinguished Library Faculty Award. Ms. Henson is a well-deserving recipient of this award, and I wholeheartedly endorse her colleagues' sentiments. Jo Ann is a credit to the profession of academic research librarianship and a valued member of the Mason Libraries' team. Her enthusiastic support of the Mason community is invaluable to student success."

The 2019 Distinguished Library Faculty Award selection committee members were: Kathleen Bell, Sally Evans, Kimberly Hoffman (Chair), Susan Stockwell, and Robert Vay.

To be considered for the award, library faculty are assessed on the performance of their professional duties, as well as their scholarly and service contributions to the academic research library field and to higher education. Award recipients exemplify this threefold role: have a strong reputation among their colleagues at Mason and outside the institution; actively foster the teaching, learning, research, and public service mission of the Libraries; and embody organizational values such as innovation, collaboration, and leadership.

The Distinguished Library Faculty Award is awarded on an annual basis at George Mason University's Celebration of Teaching Excellence, organized by the Stearns Center for Teaching and Excellence. This year the event is scheduled for Monday, April 15, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., Center for Arts, Fairfax Campus.

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