

Connecting to Collections honored with 2014 NCPC Award for Preservation Excellence

The North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) has selected *Connecting to Collections* in the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (NCDCCR) for its annual *Award for Preservation Excellence*.

“Due to the efforts and vision of the *Connecting to Collections* staff, guided by project manager LeRae Umfleet, this program has demonstrated and promoted outstanding strategies for achieving long-term preservation and conservation planning.”, noted KaeLi Shurr, NCPC president.

Connecting to Collections (C2C) is a NCDCCR project supported by federal grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to assist the state’s archives, museums, library special collections, and historic sites with traditional preservation of collections and disaster preparedness and response. C2C began in 2009 with a needs assessment of the nearly 1,000 cultural heritage collections in North Carolina. The C2C staff then developed a variety of workshops in collections care and disaster preparedness held throughout the state. The most innovative C2C workshop is the hands-on training in fire recovery, offered in partnership with fire fighters in their specially designed facility for controlled burns.

SuEllen Askew, Secretary of the Mufreesboro Historical Association praised the program, “The assistance from C2C gave our association the most up-to-date information on how to better care for our collections and became an instrumental partner in constructing a comprehensive disaster plan that goes well beyond the simple template available in most books and online.”

“I honestly can’t image how much more isolated we would be without all the help, communication, and training that the C2C project has provided us.”, remarked Rebecca Taylor, Manager of the Federal Point History Center in Carolina Beach.

“It’s a privilege to work with many great colleagues across North Carolina who seek to preserve our state’s rich heritage.”, acknowledged Ms. Umfleet, “I am glad that *Connecting to Collections* has been so successful in helping improve collections care and disaster preparedness across the spectrum of North Carolina’s cultural heritage institutions.”