



HARRY S. TRUMAN
LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

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CONTACT

Susan Medler, *communications director*
PH 816.268.8245 • susanmedler@gmail.com

Truman Library Institute Welcomes New White House Decision Center Director

INDEPENDENCE, MO—The Truman Library Institute, nonprofit partner of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, is pleased to welcome Mary McMurray as director of The White House Decision Center, the flagship education program for middle- and high-school students at the Truman Library.

“This is an important role, and we are pleased to have been able to recruit and hire Mary McMurray,” said Alex Burden, executive director of the Truman Library Institute. “Throughout the region, educators rely on The White House Decision Center as a partner in excellent civics education. In Mary, they will also find a professional, enthusiastic partner who is as passionate about Truman-era history as she is about teacher satisfaction, student achievement and superlative experiences in our nationally acclaimed hands-on history lab.”

McMurray earned her BA in history at the University of Missouri-Columbia, holds a master’s in history from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and is a Ph.D. candidate in U.S. history at the University of Kansas. In her new position, McMurray will build on The White House Decision Center’s strong foundation to increase attendance, expand program options, and create greater access for students from economically challenged districts.

“It is a dream come true to direct The White House Decision Center,” McMurray said. “I am thrilled to work with an exceptional team of facilitators, educators and community members to fulfill President Truman’s vision of promoting education, democracy and leadership through the riveting historical simulations offered to student and adult groups at The White House Decision Center.”

The White House Decision Center opened in 2002 and quickly became the standard-bearer for education programs at presidential libraries. More than 55,000 secondary and university students (as well as military and corporate groups) have taken on the roles of President Truman and his advisers in a recreated West Wing setting. Students and teachers regularly report that the immersive, hands-on history lab offers one of the most profound educational experiences available, in any discipline.

“We are confident that Mary’s leadership will strengthen our existing programs and help fulfill President Truman’s original vision that his presidential library serve as a classroom for democracy,” said Burden.

The Truman Library Institute is the nonprofit partner of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, one of 13 presidential archives administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. Hailed as home to America's "best presidential museum," the Truman Library seeks to promote, through educational and community programs, a greater appreciation and understanding of American politics, history and culture, the process of governance, and the importance of public service, as exemplified by Harry S. Truman. To learn more about the Truman Library and the Truman Library Institute, visit TrumanLibrary.org.

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