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April 15, 2015

Delaware Historical Society's Chief Curator Named as the Delaware Museum Association's 2015 Delaware Diamond

Chief Curator Dr. Constance J. Cooper honored for her impact on the Delaware museum community.

Wilmington, DE — Chief Curator Dr. Constance J. Cooper is the recipient of the Delaware Museum Association's 2015 Delaware Diamond award. Announced at the DMA's Small Museum Association Conference, held February 15-17 in Ocean City, Maryland, the Delaware Diamond award was presented to Dr. Cooper by the DMA's Board at the Delaware Historical Society in March.

The award recognizes the outstanding and long-term contribution made by an individual to museums and historical societies in Delaware. The DMA seeks work that goes beyond the borders of a single institution and that has a broad impact on the Delaware museum community. The Delaware Diamond Award recognizes Dr. Cooper's long career at the Delaware Historical Society and her outreach to museums, historical societies, and Delaware communities for the *Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980* exhibition and book as the impetus for this honor.

Dr. Cooper began her work at the Delaware Historical Society in the early 1980s as a manuscript librarian and became the Chief Curator in 2009. Prior to coming to the Society, she earned her Ph.D. in history from the University of Delaware.

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an "American Treasure" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016.

For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit www.dehistory.org.

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