

Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2018**

Contact: Elizabeth Severs, 757/728-5326
elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com
Seamus McGrann, 757/727-6841
mmcgrann@hampton.gov

Norfolk State Historian Presents *Virginia Waterways and the Underground Railroad*, Returns to the Hampton History Museum for a Talk and Book Signing May 16

Hampton, VA - Back by popular demand, Norfolk State University history professor Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander returns to the Hampton History Museum to discuss, and sign copies of her book *Virginia Waterways and the Underground Railroad*, as part of the Lunch in Time series on Wednesday, May 16, noon-1 pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dr. Newby-Alexander will discuss how enslaved Virginians sought freedom from the time they were first brought to these shores in 1619. Acts of self-emancipation were aided by Virginia's waterways, which became part of the network of the Underground Railroad in the years before the Civil War. Watermen willing to help escaped slaves made 18th-century Norfolk a haven for freedom seekers. Famous 19th-century escapees like Shadrack Minkins and Henry "Box" Brown were aided by the Underground Railroad. Enslaved men like Henry Lewey, known as Bluebeard, aided freedom seekers as conductors, and black and white sympathizers acted as station masters.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a bag lunch. The museum will have free dessert.

Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander PhD

Newby-Alexander currently serves as a professor of history and the director of the Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center for the African Diaspora at Norfolk State University. She has spearheaded the 1619 Making of America conference, which seeks to transform the narrative about the role of early Africans in the evolution of America. Her books include *An African American History of the Civil War in Hampton Roads* and *Hampton Roads: Remembering Our Schools and Voices from within the Veil: African Americans and the Experience of Democracy*.

The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information call 757-727-1102.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

###