

Statement of Purpose

I do not know many people who sincerely and passionately enjoy what they do for work every day. I can say that I enjoy my career. I moved to Chesapeake, Virginia from Benicia, California almost 5 years ago. When I looked for a job to apply to, I knew that I wanted to serve the public. It took a year for a position to open and when it did, I applied to be a Library Assistant in my city. They hired me and from my first day at work, I knew it was a perfect fit for me.

I have been in an entry level position for the last 4 years with the City of Chesapeake Libraries and I am positive that this is the field I want to remain and progress in. To progress, I need a Master in Library Science. It took me several months to research different schools and throughout my search, the University of North Texas consistently remained at the top of my list. Some of the reasons for this are because the School of Information Library Science program fits the needs of my work and home life. It is ALA accredited and has earned awards. Most of all, it offers a fully online study option. When I asked several Librarians for recommendations, I learned that a few Chesapeake Public Librarians got their degrees in Library Science from UNT. At that point, I was sold as these professionals who ranged from youth librarians to branch managers, spoke highly of UNT and they are respected as being very knowledgeable in their fields.

Over the past 24 years, I was primarily a military stay-at-home mother living in 4 different states. Although this life choice (choosing family over career) did not allow me to work full time, I held 3 jobs in libraries. My first was a work study position at the campus library where I earned my Bachelor's in Health Science Administration. Here is where the University Library Director took notice of my work ethic and natural customer service abilities. As reflected from my grades over 20 years ago, test-taking was not my strong suite. Nevertheless, I sincerely enjoyed my work and it was not uncommon for her to give me responsibilities that other work study students were not entrusted with. Mrs. Doux even gave me the keys to the building to open as I was always on time. My second library job was as a part-time Library Assistant with Virginia Beach Public Libraries. VBPL routinely held employee trainings and I tried to attend almost all of them as schedules allowed. This is where I really learned about the various departments in libraries including Archives, Collection Management and programing for adults and children. Now that my family dynamic has changed, I am employed with the City of Chesapeake's Public Libraries and I know this is where I fit. I began as a part time Library Assistant and eventually got promoted twice in 4 years. During my employment, I earned recognition from the City of Chesapeake with 2 Public Service Awards complete with bonus and time off. Although I was hired to work in Circulation, I am cross-trained to work in various departments including Youth and Family Services, Reference and Collection Management as needs arise.

The future of libraries is evolving and I want to be well informed as I advance in this career. During my childhood, I worked with my parents in their many community outreach programs and events. In my adulthood, I offered my time and advocated for volunteerism my local communities. It is evident that my strength and passion is in public service. I would like to be

more knowledgeable in how to customize and organize data for patrons. I would like to establish a strong foundation in the field of library science customers whether they are doing research for education or growing in their daily lives. Plans that I have for my career in libraries is to get more involved in programming for teens and adults. I also would like to become a branch manager. In order to accomplish these goals effectively, I must obtain my Master in Library Science. I have set a personal goal of not accepting a grade lower than an A in any class set before me. I am motivated and determined.