

Libraries Southwest Scholarship Application Form

Part 1 – Applicant Information

Please print or type.

Name Erica Frances Koop	
Address 700 Henning Dr Apt 118	
City Sulphur	Zip Code 70663
Parish Calcasieu Parish	
Phone Number 337-764-9280	Date of Birth 01/06/1982
Email ekoop@calcasieu.lib.la.us	
Institution you plan to attend East Carolina University	
Degree or certification you plan to pursue	

Work Experience (please include volunteer experience and internships)

Dates	Place of Business	Position	Reason for Leaving	Accomplishments
01/01/16 to Present	Banners of McNeese	Volunteer	Still an active Volunteer	Volunteer for various community cultural events for both families and adults.
August 2001 to May 2004	Norton Memorial Library at Louisiana College	Student Employee	Graduation	Student work in the acquisitions department.

Erica Frances Koop

As a child the public library was an important place for my family and me. My early experience with the library grew into a love for books and education. While in college I had the opportunity to work in my on campus library as a student worker for three years. I worked in the acquisitions department and had excellent mentors that helped me along the way. Though my degree field drew me in a different direction for some time, my desire was always to end up in a public library.

In 2014, I applied to the library where I am currently employed. The journey to be getting here was all about determination. I applied several times to my current branch, despite there not being positions available. There was no giving up and I knew that this is where I needed to be. Long story short, after two years I have not only thrived, but got a lateral promotion. That promotion has brought me to a whole new level and our programs are thriving. What the promotion did for me was phenomenal. I took over as the children's story time presenter after our librarian of 30 years retired. It was no easy task, as I revamped the entire story time model that we use.

It is that desire and drive that has brought me to the East Carolina University MLS program. As a public librarian focusing on Children's librarianship, I hope to continue to innovate and grow our programs. It is my goal that I'll be able to help my community, its young readers and their families to become closer. As technology and the environment changes it is about adaptation and knowing what the community needs. It is my desire to continue to evolve and make an impact on the field of library science. By attending ECU I will be learning cutting edge ways to make my job a success.

Recommendation Form

PLEASE NOTE: the applicant named below is applying for a scholarship administered by Libraries Southwest. Your recommendation is needed as part of the application process. Please return this form to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the flap so he/she may submit it as part of a complete package. In addition to completing the form, you may also include a personal letter of recommendation (optional).

Applicant's Name Erica Koop

How long have you know this individual? 2 years

Is what capacity does this person work in your library? Children's Program

Circle the rating most applicable to the applicant on the following criteria using the scale:

(1) Below Average (2) Average (3) Above Average (4) Excellent (5) Outstanding

Goal Oriented	1	2	3	4	5
Prospect for Personal Success (career/personal)	1	2	3	4	5
Leadership Qualities	1	2	3	4	5
Responsibility/Reliability	1	2	3	4	5
Creativity/Resourcefulness	1	2	3	4	5
Prospects for Academic Success	1	2	3	4	5

Remarks and general information concerning this individual you feel the selection committee should consider when screening this application, please elaborate on information provided. (Attach additional sheet(s) to elaborate.)

See attached sheet

Megan Yarbrough
Name (print)

Supervisor
Relationship to Applicant, if any

Central Library - CPPL
Name of Organization/Business

337-721-7116
Phone

Megan Yarbrough
Signature

7/11/16
Date

Megan Yarbrough
Patron Services, Central Library
301 West Claude St.
Lake Charles, LA
70605

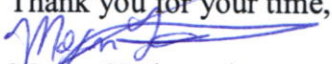
July 11, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked with Erica Koop for two years at the Central Library for the Calcasieu Parish Public Library System. In those two years, I have watched Erica blossom from a shy, unsure reference worker to a bustling, confident programming coordinator. She began her programming career by just assisting every once in a while. By the time she was picked to be a helper in Summer Reading, she had hit her stride. When our branch rebuilt its departments, no one was sure where anyone would be placed; but EVERYONE knew that Erica would be in the programming department. Her enthusiasm, new ideas, and blatant excitement for getting kids, teens, and even adults excited about their library were contagious. In six months, Erica has turned two dying story time programs which had been placed on the proverbial system chopping block into wildly popular children's programs, one averaging 70 people a morning and the other about 45 people a night (the former was at about 30 and the latter about 3).

As a coworker, I am thankful to have Erica by my side. She is calm in crazy situations (which there are a lot of at a public library!) and never turns away a patron-in-crisis. She is wonderful with children and has a way of infecting everyone with joy. People walk away from her happy and feeling important. I think that the public library is truly her calling.

I know that Erica has a never-ending thirst for knowledge. She wants to learn everything there is to know about the library and is always volunteering to try something new. She does not shy away from innovation and is not derailed by failure. Instead, she uses failure as her motivation to try again, with a new idea and renewed vigor. I have watched her journey of applying to schools for her Masters. It has been a struggle. She has been out of college for a long time, and that seems to work against her in many ways. However, now that she has found her career that she wants to be in, she is bound and determined to achieve her goals no matter what. I think any institution that will help Erica achieve their dreams will be proud to have her be a recipient of their award.

Thank you for your time,

Megan Yarbrough

Part 2 – Essay

In 300-350 words, please describe your experience and interest in librarianship and how the classes you plan to take will enhance your present role as a library employee.

Please type this essay in a separate Word document using 12-point Times New Roman font. Please include your name at the top of the essay.

Part 3 – Recommendation Form

The committee requires a recommendation form, which should be completed by the applicant's immediate supervisor. It is useful for your supervisor if you provide them with a copy of this scholarship application form along with the recommendation form. Be sure your supervisor has adequate time to complete the form. Your supervisor must put the completed form in a sealed envelope and sign the back of it before giving it to you to turn in with your application materials. **Do not open this sealed recommendation envelope!**

Authorization for Release of Records

I hereby authorize Libraries Southwest to release any information concerning my scholarship application materials to the Libraries Southwest Scholarship Committee, and I permit the use of the information in the essay in publicity for Libraries Southwest.

Applicant's Name Erica Frances Koop

Applicant's Signature Erica Frances Koop

Date 07/11/2016