

## Libraries Southwest Scholarship Application Form

### Part 1 – Applicant Information

*Please print or type.*

Name Erica Frances Koop	
Address 190 Carol Rd.	
City DeQuincy, LA	Zip Code 70633
Parish Calcasieu	
Phone Number 337-764-9280	Date of Birth 01/06/1982
Email ekoop@calcasieulibrary.org	
Institution you plan to attend East Carolina University	
Degree or certification you plan to pursue MLS - Youth Librarianship	

### Work Experience *(please include volunteer experience and internships)*

Dates	Place of Business	Position	Reason for Leaving	Accomplishments
08/18/2014 To Current	Central Library 301 W. Claude St. Lake Charles, LA 70605 Calcasieu Parish	Library Associate I	Currently Employed	Increased story time attendance. Started new programs for families. Facilitates a sensory story time.
01/01/2016 To 12/31/2016	Banners at McNeese, McNeese State University  Lake Charles, LA	Volunteer	Increased workload at work and graduate school	Volunteered for numerous multi-cultural events which took place in and around Lake Charles, LA

08/01/2016 To Current	Sulphur Mines Theater  Sulphur, LA	Actor in stage performances	Still currently involved in productions when they are available	I was the Judge in A Miracle on 34 <sup>th</sup> Street and volunteer at other events. Will be auditioning for several parts in the fall.
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**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 Koop

Applicant's Signature ericakoop

Date 5/23/2017

Erica Koop

May 23, 2017

LSW Scholarship Essay

I have always had a love for learning and for books. It is the love of those two things that brought me to the field of Library Science. I began my journey into the library field as a student at Louisiana College. There I worked at the Norton Memorial Library as a student worker for three years. After many years of working in the retail world, I made my way back to the library. I started at the Central Library in Lake Charles, Louisiana in August of 2014. I began in the Reference department and after a year I was placed in the Programming department under the new one desk structure.


At my new position I was tasked with implementing new children's programming and took over the role of lead story teller from the retiring Children's librarian. In my new role I changed the structure of the story times to include more movement and early literacy techniques. My goal was to get the parents more involved in the story time and give them techniques to use at home. I also have experience working with teen and adult programming and have structured programs for each of them. I also conduct a sensory story time once a month. This has been one of the biggest blessings of my life. I have been able to reach a set of patrons that are often underserved and I am making lifelong friends.

The classes I have taken toward my MLS degree have so far focused on research and the basics of Library Science. In the Fall of 2017, I will be taking classes on collection development, public libraries, and materials for children. These classes are important as they will help me develop my skills in how the behind the scenes of the library works. There are many other

classes in youth librarianship that I will be taking as the year progresses. As I take these classes they will help me to choose the right books and programs for the parents and children of my story times.

# Academic Transcript

B01162785 Erica F. Koop  
May 23, 2017 02:04 pm

 This is not an official transcript. Courses which are in progress may also be included on this transcript.

[Institution Credit](#)   [Transcript Totals](#)   [Courses in Progress](#)

## Transcript Data

### STUDENT INFORMATION

**Name :** Erica F. Koop  
**Birth Date:** Jan 06, 1982  
**Student Type:** Continuing

### Curriculum Information

#### Current Program

Master of Library Science  
**Program:** MLS-Library Science  
**College:** College of Education  
**Major and Department:** Library Science,  
Interdisciplinary Professions  
**Major Concentration:** MLS - Public Library

\*\*\*Transcript type:ADVS is NOT Official \*\*\*

## INSTITUTION CREDIT -Top-

Term: Fall 2016

**College:** College of Education  
**Major:** Library Science  
**Student Type:** Graduate/Doctoral/CAS Degree  
**Academic Standing:** Good Standing

Subject	Course	Campus	Level	Title	Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points	Start and End Dates	R	CEU Contact Hours
LIBS	6010	De/Internet	GR	Found of Library And Info Stu	A	3.000	12.000			
LIBS	6014	De/Internet	GR	Introduction to Reference	A	3.000	12.000			

	Attempt Hours	Passed Hours	Earned Hours	GPA Hours	Quality Points	GPA
<b>Current Term:</b>	6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000	24.000	4.000
<b>Cumulative:</b>	6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000	24.000	4.000

## Unofficial Transcript

Term: Spring 2017

**College:** College of Education  
**Major:** Library Science  
**Student Type:** Continuing  
**Academic Standing:** Good Standing

Subject	Course	Campus	Level	Title	Grade	Credit	Quality	Start	R	CEU
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						<b>Hours</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>and End Dates</b>	<b>Contact Hours</b>
LIBS	6026	De/Internet GR	Organ of Info in Libraries	A		3.000	12.000		
LIBS	6031	De/Internet GR	Library Adm and Mgmt	A		3.000	12.000		
LIBS	6042	De/Internet GR	Tech for Library Services	A		3.000	12.000		

	<b>Attempt Hours</b>	<b>Passed Hours</b>	<b>Earned Hours</b>	<b>GPA Hours</b>	<b>Quality Points</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>Current Term:</b>	9.000	9.000	9.000	9.000	36.000	4.000
<b>Cumulative:</b>	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	60.000	4.000

Unofficial Transcript

**TRANSCRIPT TOTALS (GRADUATE) -Top-**

	<b>Attempt Hours</b>	<b>Passed Hours</b>	<b>Earned Hours</b>	<b>GPA Hours</b>	<b>Quality Points</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>Total Institution:</b>	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	60.000	4.000
<b>Total Transfer:</b>	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Overall:</b>	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	60.000	4.000

Unofficial Transcript

**COURSES IN PROGRESS -Top-**

Term: 2nd Summer 2017

**College:** College of Education  
**Major:** Library Science  
**Student Type:** Continuing

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Campus</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Start and End Dates</b>
LIBS	6019	De/Internet GR		Research Literacy in Library Science	3.000	

Unofficial Transcript

Term: Fall 2017

**College:** College of Education  
**Major:** Library Science  
**Student Type:** Continuing

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Campus</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Start and End Dates</b>
LIBS	6018	De/Internet GR		Collection Development	3.000	
LIBS	6135	De/Internet GR		Materials for Children	3.000	
LIBS	7050	De/Internet GR		Seminar on Public Libraries	3.000	

Unofficial Transcript

**RELEASE: 8.4.1**

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## 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? 3 years

Is what capacity does this person work in your library? Associate Librarian - Programming

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.)

please see attached sheet

Megan Thomas Jonbrun  
Name (print)

Supervisor  
Relationship to Applicant, if any

Calcasieu Parish Public Library  
Name of Organization/Business

337-221-7121  
Phone

Megan Thomas Jonbrun  
Signature

8/25/17  
Date

May 23, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

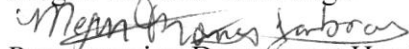
I have worked with Erica Koop for three years and have been her Supervisor for one of those years. During that time, I have seen Erica go from being a Reference employee to being a stellar children's program coordinator. She not only has constantly sought to improve herself and expand her knowledge of library theory and practice, but has also completely overhauled the children's department. She took failing programs and dwindling attendance numbers and turned them around to the point where we are contemplating creating more story times to relieve the high attendance numbers (who has room for 100-120 people every week?!) The parents love her, the children love her, and she receives nothing but rave reviews from the community agencies she visits weekly for library outreach.

Erica is driven by the mission of the public library. She strives to make sure that all children are equal players in her programs and she believes in utilizing the library as a tool to make the playing field of life more equal as well. She has a huge heart for children on the spectrum. She has spearheaded Sensory Storytime, a highly-specified story time geared towards children on the autism spectrum. She has attended workshops, intense training, and read all the literature she can get her hands on to help make this program a success for the children and their caregivers. Countless parents have commended her for her efforts and many of her participants have 'graduated' to regular story time, a feat that their parents had not believed possible. I have listened to parents honestly weep about how proud they are of their kids and how their vast improvement can be largely accredited to Erica's work with them. We are planning to expand this program in the fall and are relying heavily on Erica to help maintain and expand Sensory not just here at Central but system wide.

Any institution that will help Erica during her studies will be helping a librarian who is critical to an underserved population in our community. Erica is an example of a librarian going out of their comfort zone to reach out to people in need and bringing them into the library. She has exposed these families to the library as a community center and as a place where their children are not only accepted, but celebrated. I appreciate your consideration of Erica for this scholarship.

Thank you,

Megan Thomas Yarbrough



Programming Department Head, Central Branch

Calcasieu Parish Public Library

301 W. Claude St., Lake Charles, LA 70605

337-721-7121

[myarbrough@calcasieu.lib.la.us](mailto:myarbrough@calcasieu.lib.la.us)