

Vanessa Mendez Scholarship Essay



Murray Watson Jr. Scholarship Essay

Throughout my college journey, I have encountered ~~numerous~~ ^{Many} challenges. ~~My first~~ ^{the first} of which being ~~difficult~~ ^{when} when I had to move states during my initial university application process. My dad received a job transfer just ~~and~~ ^{when} I had ~~just~~ ^{been} accepted ~~to~~ ^{to} a private university in Los Angeles, a school I had worked hard to get into. ~~As an 18-year-old student,~~ ^{However,} I had to move with my family from California to Texas, as I still relied on my father's financial support and we could not afford to pay for a dorm or anywhere else for me to live apart from my family. This unexpected change disrupted ~~the~~ ^{the} college plans, which I had intended to strictly follow, given the effort I had put into to gain admission to that college. ~~However,~~ ^{Despite this setback} I managed to navigate this new challenge with the encouragement and support from my friends in California, who are all now graduate students. They believed in my potential and motivated me to ~~utilize the resources available to me,~~ ^{make the best of my situation,} encouraging me to apply to universities in Texas. Once I overcame this hurdle, I faced yet another challenge: balancing a full-time job at Target and ~~my full-time studies~~ ^{being a full-time student} to help pay for my education. I successfully got through this challenge by honing my time management skills, which included creating a detailed schedule and establishing weekly goals.

During my time in Texas, I have gained valuable experience through my jobs and volunteering. The most impactful experience I have gained ~~in~~ ^{has been by} volunteering at libraries and working as a Library Assistant at the Bedford Public Library. This experience has helped expand my understanding of the librarian's role, which I now see is beyond simply organizing books. I have acquired ~~many skills~~ ^{like what? name some} through my work that have inspired me to aim for a ~~greater objective.~~ ^{What is your greater objective?} I intend to advance to a librarian position so I can better support learning ~~and~~ ^{their} research and advocate for libraries and ~~its~~ ^{at college name} services. I am applying to the Library Science Master's program to develop the skills necessary to achieve this goal, as ~~the~~ ^{this} program prepares information professionals for work in a variety of roles and settings including public libraries.

My undergraduate studies as a literature major at ^{the University of North Texas} UNT have not only provided me with a strong foundation for understanding information and how ^{it is} ~~it~~ presented, but ^{has} also allowed me to hone my writing abilities. I was able to gain this foundation and learn how to write effectively through courses such as Introduction to Literary Analysis and Interpretation Skills and Advanced Studies in Writing. I also had the opportunity to engage with ^{a range of} ~~diverse~~ texts and research their connections to certain cultural contexts. Through diversity courses, I gained a deeper understanding of the significance of communicating with diverse audiences, ^{and the importance of having access to different voices.} My analysis, writing, and communication abilities will be helpful in achieving the goals of the program ^{by allowing me} ~~such~~ to ^{to} ~~recognizing~~ the impacts of information on diverse populations and the importance of communication for personal and professional growth. ^{This} ~~The~~ program will also allow me to continue to further expand these skills for a successful career as a librarian.

My ^{advanced} ~~enhanced~~ understanding of library operations, gained through my volunteer experience and employment, has led me to recognize my potential for success in a librarian position. Throughout my time working in ^a ~~the~~ library, I have improved my efficiency in using technology through assisting patrons with various library equipment, and ^{through} guiding them in navigating our catalog. Additionally, I have become skilled in using our library software, Koha, to help patrons register for library cards and educate them on our available resources. As an aspiring librarian, I believe that it is essential to equip everyone with the ability to locate information by educating them on information literacy skills. The library science program at ^{not only} ~~UNT~~ is how I intend to reach my career goal because it will equip me with the leadership skills necessary to further fulfill my ^{goal/dream of becoming a librarian, but because it will also ensure that} ~~objective of ensuring user satisfaction~~ ^{I have the knowledge and skills to help people of all backgrounds.}