

February 10, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Amanda Neace, and I am applying for the Jim Nelson Continuing Education Scholarship graduate award through the Kentucky Public Library Association. I recently enrolled at the University of Kentucky and have been taking two classes toward a Master of Science in Library Science degree since January 2016. I have been fortunate that my library is providing funds to take courses leading toward my state certification. I also received a \$500 scholarship from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives toward my first semester. However, after this semester I will only have one more class that will be covered by my library, and I will still need to take 10 more classes to complete my degree. This is where my financial need arises.

I have been employed at the Trimble County Public Library as their Program & Outreach Coordinator since May 2013. This job has been a perfect fit for me, and I have been able to grow my professional skill set here. On a daily basis, I run programs and outreach opportunities for library patrons of all ages. For example, I plan and present Story Times and after school programs, coordinate our VolunTeen initiative and provide bookmobile services to homebound readers. Professionally, I've also been fortunate to become involved with our local Health & Wellness Coalition as their secretary and our Head Start Policy Council. Serving on these boards promotes our library's value in our community.

I have also been involved in other professional activities on a less regular basis. I recently attended Legislative Day in Frankfort with other public library supporters. Through the University of Kentucky, I have become connected to the Sayre School in Lexington and recently volunteered in their school library. I volunteered at the Kentucky Book Fair for their Children's Day programs in Frankfort. I completed the 2014 Public Library Institute at the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives. In my free time, I also enjoy providing a monthly interactive Story Time at the Cincinnati Ronald McDonald House.

I am committed to the field of library work, and I am looking forward to completing my degree. I enjoy serving others in the Kentucky community and sharing the joy of learning and reading for all ages. This scholarship would allow me to advance my learning and reach my professional goals.

Thank you for your time,



Amanda Neace