



LEAP Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS)

Scholarship Program

funded by the

Institute of Museum and Library Services

APPLICATION MATERIALS

The University of North Texas College of Information - Department of Library and Information Sciences and the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) instituted this scholarship program to provide financial support to eligible residents of the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands seeking a graduate degree in library and information science. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) wishes to provide support to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. IMLS monies fund the scholarship.

APPLICATION AND SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

The LEAP MLIS Scholarship will pay 100% of tuition and fees up to \$20,000.

Applicants must complete and submit an **original and two copies** of the application form (page 3 below) and all required materials (detailed on page 4-5 below).

DEADLINE: All LEAP MLIS scholarship application materials must be postmarked by **April 1, 2011**.

In order to be eligible for a LEAP MLIS Scholarship, the applicant must:

1. Be an indigenous Pacific Islander citizen or have been a resident for a minimum of 10 years of one of the entities in the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands - American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) – Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap; Guam; the Marshall Islands (RPI); and Palau
2. Have a BA/BS degree completed prior to fall 2011
3. Apply to and be accepted to the MLIS distance program at UNT and the LEAP cohort

All LEAP MLIS Scholarship recipients must:

1. Begin the UNT distance MLIS program in the fall of 2011 and complete the degree in summer 2013

2. Take two courses per semester and a total of 36 UNT credits in the LEAP cohort
3. Stay academically eligible and meet all UNT requirements including attendance at the cohort residency held in the US-API region
4. Become a member of PIALA, the American Library Association, and the Hawaii Library Association
5. Agree to work in a library, information organization, or a closely related field in the U.S. -API in a full-time librarian, information professional, or other position for two years or 24 months after obtaining the graduate degree.
6. Upon becoming a professional librarian serve as a mentor for other library professionals, library staff, and individuals interested in library and/or information science as a career

All applications will be kept on file at the University of North Texas College of Information – Department of Library and Information Sciences, acting as LEAP project coordinator and fiscal agent.

All applications must be typed. E-mailed applications will be acceptable with all materials digitized into electronic files in either htm or pdf. No faxed applications will be accepted.

TO HELP INSURE THAT THE APPLICANT'S FILE IS COMPLETE BY THE DEADLINE, ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ONE PACKAGE. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Submit your complete application package to:

**Yvonne J. Chandler, Associate Professor &
Project Director, LEAP Cohort Program
UNT/LEAP Scholarship Program
University of North Texas College of Information
Department of Library & Information Sciences
1155 Union Circle #311068
Denton, TX 76203-5017**

For more information or questions about the UNT/LEAP Scholarship Program contact either:

**Yvonne J. Chandler, Associate Professor &
Project Director UNT/DLIS LEAP Scholarship Program
yvonne.chandler@unt.edu
940-565-3777 or 1-877-ASK-SLIS**

**Jane Barnwell, Director
Library & Information Literacy Initiatives
Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL)
barnwellj@prel.org
(808) 441-1320**

LEAP MLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ Island of legal residency: _____

Present Mailing Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Phone: Work _____ Phone: Cell _____

Email address: _____

How did you learn about the LEAP MLIS Scholarship?

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Journal/Newsletter Article | <input type="checkbox"/> | Professional Assoc. Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> | [put in comments from "Other" here] |
| Promotional Ads/Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> | Employer/Colleague/Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| UNT Recruiter/Presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> | PREL | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| LEAP Website | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Have you submitted your application to the distance MLIS program at the University of North Texas?
___ Yes ___ No

Do you currently work or volunteer in a library? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you work?

| | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fulltime | Part Time | Volunteer |
|----------|-----------|-----------|

If yes, what is your job title: _____

Please describe your current job duties and responsibilities: _____

Ethnic background: For reporting purposes only, we would appreciate indication of which of the following groups best describes your ethnic background.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ Samoan | _____ Kosraean | _____ Chamorro (Guam) |
| _____ Carolinian | _____ Pohnpeian | _____ Marshall Islander |
| _____ Chamorro (CNMI) | _____ Yapese | _____ Palauan |
| _____ Chuukese | _____ Other _____ | |

In addition to the application form, applicants are required to include the following materials

Part 1. EDUCATION AND WORK HISTORY

Submit your resume including academic and work history and contact information for places of employment.

Part 2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STATEMENT

Summarize your participation in community and/or campus activities and/or community service organizations in the past three years.

Part 3. ESSAY ON PURPOSE AND GOALS

Include a copy of the essay submitted with your UNT MLIS application on your purpose and goals in applying to graduate school, the nature of your interest in library education, how you became interested in the field, your short-and long-term goals, the strengths you bring to the information profession, and how the UNT program will help you meet your career/education objectives.

Part 4. SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

This essay is your opportunity to explain your interest in pursuing a career library and information services in the Pacific region. It is a very important part of the scholarship committee selection process. Submit a well thought out and formally written 1500 to 2000 word essay discussing the following questions:

What is your vision for improving library and information services in the Pacific region? How will increasing the number of trained librarians affect library services in the islands? What do you believe will be your specific contribution to improving information services and access in your community? Focus your essay on the type of library in which you are most interested in employment.

Part 5. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Three letters of recommendations are required to support your scholarship application. If possible, one recommendation should be from a current or former employer. Your letters of recommendation should address your reviewer's assessment of your ability to succeed in a distance learning master's degree program, interest and commitment to library and information services, and your interpersonal or communication skills. Members of your immediate family may not submit letters.

Part 6. AGREEMENT

I have read and hereby accept the LEAP MLIS Scholarship application conditions that require me to:

- Be an indigenous Pacific Islander citizen or have been a resident for a minimum of 10 years of one of the entities in the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands - American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) – Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap; Guam; the Marshall Islands (RPI); and Palau
- Have a BA/BS degree completed prior to fall 2011
- Apply to and be accepted to the MLIS distance program at UNT
- Begin the UNT distance MLIS program in the fall of 2011 and complete the degree in summer 2013
- Stay academically eligible and meet all UNT requirements for the master's degree.
- Attend the cohort residency to be held at the College of Micronesia – National Campus in Pohnpei in the American Pacific region (included in LEAP Scholarship award)
- Register for two courses per semester and complete a total of 36 UNT credit hours in the UNT/MLS program (included in LEAP Scholarship award).
- Become a member of PIALA, the American Library Association, and the Hawaii Library Association (included in LEAP Scholarship award).
- Attend all workshops and the culminating recognition event at the Pacific Education Conference (included in LEAP Scholarship award)
- Upon becoming a professional librarian serve as a mentor for other library professionals, library staff, and individuals interested in library and/or information

science as a career

Employment Verification

I agree that, upon completion of my graduate program, I will work in a US-API library for 24 months after receiving my degree. I will provide verification that I have obtained employment in an US-API academic, public, school (K-12), or special library or other information environment in a full-time professional library position.

I authorize investigation of all matters contained in this application and agree that if any misrepresentation has been made by me herein or the investigation results are not satisfactory, this application will be considered void and any scholarship offer withdrawn.

I agree to notify the University of North Texas College of Information of all changes in my academic status which occur during and after the period in which my application is being considered. I understand the scholarship may be withdrawn if I fail to report such changes.

I understand that my application will be considered void if all required materials listed in the scholarship application instructions are not received by April 1, 2011.

I understand that my application will be reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee for the UNT/IMLS LEAP Scholarship Program. I authorize my scholarship application information to be shared with the Selection Committee.

Signature of Applicant

Printed Name of Applicant

Date

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APPLICANT CHECK SHEET Note: Applicants must submit the following materials before being considered for receiving a scholarship award. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

TO HELP INSURE THAT THE APPLICANT'S FILE IS COMPLETE BY THE DEADLINE, ALL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN ONE PACKAGE.

- Application form
- Résumé (Education & Work History)
- Community Involvement Statement
- Essay on Purpose & Goals
- Essay on Pacific Region Library Services
- Signed Agreement
- Letters of Recommendation/Support (3)
Names:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Applicants who have completed the application requirements listed above will be rated on the following criteria:

| POINTS | CRITERION |
|--------|---|
| | Potential for academic and professional employment success (resume) |
| | Community involvement (examples of community service) |
| | Successful employment and indication of future employment success (work history, purpose and goals) |
| | Understanding of Pacific Region library issues and needs (library services essay) |
| | Communication skills – written (entire application) |
| | Recommendations (letters of support) |
| | Current library position meets employment requirement (application form) |
| | Total points possible |

LEAP MLIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2011

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Jane Barnwell, Director

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