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## ***We welcome your knowledge and experience!***

Your knowledge, experience, and expertise are needed to help provide professional support to future librarians. *Librarians for Diverse Communities* (LDC) is a three-year IMLS grant awarded to the Serra Cooperative Library System. It provides financial scholarships and other assistance to Serra library paraprofessionals who are actively pursuing a MLIS degree.

Mentors are needed to provide scholarship students with a professional librarian partner who will advise, support and encourage students as they balance the demands of school, work, and family.

### ***WE KEEP IT SIMPLE!***    **Mentor responsibilities**

- commit to one (or more) semesters of mentoring through June 2012 (for example, Fall Semester 2010, Spring semester 2011, etc.)
- attend a half-day orientation to meet the students, participate in the matching process, and learn more about the mentor program
- communicate with your mentee via email or phone once a week and document your interaction on a tracking log
- host your mentee to a “shadow day” at your library
- complete a mid-year and a year-end survey on the mentoring experience
- (optional) attend one professional development LDC workshop each year
- (optional) attend a local professional conference with your mentee

### ***WE MAKE IT WORTHWHILE!***    **Mentor benefits**

- opportunity for paid registration, travel and per diem to CLA 2010
- paid mileage and registration to ALA Midwinter (must attend LDC meeting at conference and attend selected sessions with mentee during conference)
- paid mileage to attend LDC activities or in-person meeting with mentee
- the opportunity to interact with Serra librarians from other libraries and departments
- the opportunity to share one's experience and knowledge, bounce ideas back and forth, learn what's new in library education, and help a MLIS student achieve school or career goals

### ***WE MAKE IT EASY!***    **Mentor eligibility**

- work part-time or full-time at a Serra member library or have retired or have been laid off from a Serra library
- have an MLS or MLIS degree
- have a minimum of 5 years experience in a library environment

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*Librarians for Diverse Communities 820 E Street San Diego, CA 92101*

*A Serra Cooperative Library System program (Funded by the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program, Institute of Museum and Library Services)*

Serra library directors are committed to the project and are well aware of the need to strongly support the mentoring component of the grant. However, since participation in the mentoring program does involve work release time, mentors must have the approval of their supervisors before formally signing up.

Please take the time to look at the brief student biographies posted on the Serra website, [www.serralib.org](http://www.serralib.org). You will see the diversity, commitment, and passion that these students bring to their library work and future career goals. An abstract of the grant, mentoring FAQs, and other pertinent information is also available on the website.

### ***WE NEED TO KNOW!***

- If you are interested in joining this exciting new project, please fill out the mentor survey attachment and send it to me **as soon as possible**.
- If you are unable to serve as a mentor at this time, but would be interested at a later time, please indicate this on the survey and send it to me.
- If you are not interested in becoming a mentor, please let me know so you are not contacted in the future. Otherwise I will check back with you before each semester.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Carol Naegele*

Mentor Coordinator  
*Librarians for Diverse Communities*  
[cnaegele1@cox.net](mailto:cnaegele1@cox.net)  
760-994-5975

Please note: I am retired from the Carlsbad City Library and therefore work from home. All email correspondence will therefore be sent from my [cnaegele1@cox.net](mailto:cnaegele1@cox.net) address.

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