

I would like to participate in the ACRL Dr. E. J. Josey Spectrum Scholar Mentor Program because I have greatly benefited from the acumen, insight, and experience of past mentors. And, as a teacher and writer, I have given my guidance, advice, and best practices to a spectrum of young people and adults. I have seen the mentor/mentee relationship from both sides and believe it to be one of the pillars of knowledge.

All my past mentors have taught me to question my motives and realize my intent, in effect, become who I was being. They have made me define myself, despite what they bequeathed to me in the way of practical, realistic, and grounded operating procedure. And by making me question what I knew, they were better able to render the borders of their professional beliefs and solidify who they had become.

Recently, I have decided that after receiving my MLS from Queens College I would like to pursue a position as an academic librarian. My teaching experience is varied, and I have an equal amount of experience teaching at the collegiate level than I do teaching for secondary public schools. Therefore, I believe I would be a welcome addition to any research library or institute; in addition, my experiences as a published poet could inform a specialized collection on contemporary American literary journals, or fashion a digital collection of e-journals.

As I wind my way through the GSLIS program at Queens College/CUNY I have noticed how truly immense the province of Library Science remains. I would like to participate and become a mentee to remind my mentor of what it was like to be a librarian on the fringe of a landscape coming into relief. I have learned leagues from past mentors in my life; I would like to believe that I taught them lessons of equal resonance that have stayed with them and informed their paths.