

Sue McGuinness

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT
AND LEARNING SERVICES

Led by the LAUC-SD Mentoring Committee, Librarian Profiles offer background information and career-related advice from UC San Diego librarians to MLIS students and graduates.

Which institution did you earn your MLIS or other graduate degree?

Emporia State University

Beyond the MLIS, do you feel that any additional advanced degree is essential to success in your current position?

Yes

Did you have work experience at any level in a library of any type prior to attending library school?

No

What are some of your current tasks and responsibilities?

- Lead liaison, outreach, instruction, and research advisory services
- Support equitable, inclusive practices within the team and its services
- Administer personnel actions including recruiting, hiring, and performance management
- Collaborate with Assistant Program Directors in operations, staffing, goal-setting, and continuous improvement
- Collaborate with library leadership in strategic planning and coordination of services

Did you focus on a particular area of librarianship while earning your MLIS?

No

Do you have another advanced degree(s) in addition to any MLIS?

Yes, Ph.D. in Chemistry and Molecular Biology

What are some skills or core competencies you feel are essential to success in your current position?

- Active listening
- Problem-solving
- Decision-making
- Teambuilding
- Strategic planning

What do you like best about being a librarian or about your current role or responsibilities?

I like working with colleagues who care about helping students learn. Management is hard, but I enjoy helping people maximize their strengths. My favorite part about being a program director is working with senior leadership on strategic planning.

What do you like best about working in an academic or university setting?

I like being in a learning environment. Learning is a hopeful thing and the campus has a positive vibe. Even when times are tough, there is a shared value of service, improvement, and community.

What is something that you think contributed to you getting your first professional job following graduate school for your MLIS?

I had no library experience, but I came prepared with specific ideas about how I would approach the responsibilities of the position. I was honest about having a lot to learn, but I flat out stated that I was willing to work hard to get up to speed. My background subject expertise mattered, but I think it was mostly my genuine enthusiasm for the job that did it.

What is your advice to MLIS students seeking or entering their first professional library position?

Be yourself and try new things. Curiosity, willingness to keep learning, communication, and collaborative skills are much more important than past experience.

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Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.
smcguinness@ucsd.edu

