

## Beliefs:

- I believe that people should have equal and easy access to historical/cultural information and materials, as long as the cultural materials are respected.
- I believe museums and archives build and strengthen ones own culture and build a respect for other cultures.
- I believe that we must teach other generations the strength that information literacy holds, and that libraries, museums, and archives are the places for that information growth.
- I believe that it is important to digitize all our records as that will allow a greater audience for the materials.
- I believe that it is important as library professionals to view all materials and information with respect even if those materials are not part of your culture or you do not agree with the information.
- I believe that cultural respect, understanding, and appreciation is something that can easily be taught through libraries, archives, and museums

## Vision:

Libraries, archives, and museum collections will be a location for learning, viewing, and interacting with all types of artifacts, books, and knowledge. People will have equal access to view in person and online from wherever they might be in the world.

What this will look like when this vision is achieved is a form of equality in places of learning such as libraries and museums. Providing easy access to information, artifacts, and materials will allow everyone to view new information, it will allow people from one culture to interact with items from another expanding their view on the world. This in turn will allow people to grow new appreciation for others, and different beliefs. This will also strength the bond between different communities by allowing people to see both sides and learn from both sides. If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, teach the other side your gardening practices.

## Expected Role, Goals, and Actions:

The role I expect to fulfill in the future is an Archivist, or a Special Collections Librarian at an academic library or museum. My goals and vision are to work with little know collections, books, artifacts, etc.... and bring people together to view, interact, and learn from them in a safe and free space. The second part of my goal is to bring those items mentioned above into the online digital space, COVID-19 has shown me the importance of being able to access materials like this online while buildings were closed, and people could not access these materials in person. The steps I will need to take are obtaining my MLIS degree, this is the first step that will allow me to work in historical archives, and collection museums. Along with this step it will teach me the tools I will need to manage archives, large collections, and databases.

This will also allow me to learn about how to get people to the information and how to interact with them and help when once they get there. After this the second step will be to find a collection or place of work, I am passionate about.

## Reflection:

My goals, beliefs, and vision have already shaped me to this point of trying to obtain my MLIS degree. My senior year of undergraduate in 2020-2021 was my most influential academic year, I worked on a native American Pequot artifact collection, I went on two archeology digs with UCCON in the summer of 2020, one in Stonington CT working on a war of 1812 battlefield site, and the other in Mystic CT working on a Native American village site. During the end of 2020 I took an independent study course to build an online website database/catalog to help showcase the Pequot artifact collection I had worked on previously. This was all during COVID-19 when things were shutting down, at the time I had built the website, Eastern Connecticut State University, where I attended school was completely closed and transitioned to all online courses, this made accessing the collection I needed for my project tricky and a little nerve racking to go to the school and view knowing I could get COVID-19 and bring it home to my parents who I was living with. During this time was also when I was taking all my anthropology classes for my anthropology minor, these classes gave me an understanding, and appreciation of other cultures. It also showed me how the world was treating other cultures in museums, archives, and libraries. I was learning a lot about the struggles of others to have their cultural artifacts and knowledge returned to them and the battles they face for proper recognition.

How all these things will shape me as a librarian I can not yet say, I feel like it is too early in my library career, this is still just my first semester after all, and I only settled on an MLIS degree because all the job applications I was looking at had a MLIS listed as a needed degree. So really, I am still learning what it means to be a librarian, or archivist, and museum professional. That being said, I know the Librarian I would like to be shaped into. I wish to be a librarian that is involved with, interactive and easy to access learning, bringing people together to view collections or learn things they might not have been able to before. If people are unable to go to where the information is I hope to find a way to bring that information to them. Next is equality, not only is open and easy access to the information needed but allowing all people and cultures to view that information, once we can understand and interact with another culture can we really start to understand that the difference between cultures is not something that should be scary, and that the world is a much larger place than just one's cultural sphere of influence. Lastly is Justice, it is one thing to teach people about different cultures using artifacts, and knowledge, but it is another when those artifacts are "stolen" or being mistreated. I would not be able to happily teach others about culture while the cultural teaching tools I am using are hurting others in the process. All in all, I hope to be a librarian that will teach people the importance of culture and taking care of our history and artifacts.