

Dear Friends of the Slidell Library of West St. Tammany Parish,

One thing I have learned during my time at the library is that libraries are a lot more than just books. Growing up as an ambitious reader, I spent much of my childhood in and out of the library. The librarians were never just faces to me and my siblings; they always recognized us, greeted us, and were genuinely happy to help us. It was always a good day when we were at the library. Once I was older, I used the library as a haven for studying and ACT prep. This time spent in the library led me to the internship I now proudly hold.

My time spent interning in the Lacombe library has taught me more than I could have ever imagined. I have learned about how the library runs, how books are circulated, and how to help patrons with common issues. It has truly been a full-circle moment to see kids who come for storytime fall in love with the library just as I did. My time interning has also taught me the importance of fighting for what you believe in. My internship has me constantly in the library, so, naturally, I learned of the importance of the library millage renewal vote. The library has been invaluable in my life, so I knew I wanted to get involved. From putting yard signs in my yard to bringing flyers to my friends at school, I made it my mission to fight for the library. I made sure to slip information about the library into any conversations I had with people in the weeks leading up to the election. I shared with people both treasured memories I had in the library, as well as the genuine need I have witnessed the citizens of our community have for its services.

The library has taught me about not being afraid to ask questions. The amazing librarians I work with during my internship never shy away from a single question that I, or any patron, may have. This will undoubtedly help guide me to be unafraid to ask questions or ask for help throughout my college experience. My journey with the Lacombe library has shown me that libraries serve as a cornerstone for our communities, extending their influence far beyond simply circulating books. The library shaped my childhood, provided me with a quiet sanctuary to study, and taught me the importance of advocating for what really matters to me. Seeing the wonder on young patrons' faces that I once felt myself, as well as understanding the importance of the library for all generations, fueled my passion to defend it. The love for literature the library instilled in me has inspired me to pursue a degree in English so I may educate others in the same way in which the library has educated me. The library's value is infinitely more than just books; It sparks passion and curiosity, builds more educated communities, and encourages standing up for what matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcelle Holley". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marcelle" being more prominent and the last name "Holley" following in a similar style.

Marcelle Holley