



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION

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Ms. Gay Perez
President, SEAHO
UNC-Chapel Hill

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Dear Ms. Perez,

It is with pleasure that I nominate Justin Lukasewicz for the James C. Grimm Outstanding New Professional Award. Justin currently serves as a Community Director at UNC-Chapel Hill. I have the honor of being Justin's current supervisor. As a Community Director, Justin is responsible for the day to day operations in a residential community of @500 students, working in areas of student conduct, assignments, programming and student counseling. Justin has done a wonderful job the past two years, being immersed in his position and community as well as built meaningful relationships with students, faculty and staff. Being immersed in your community is not something we take lightly here at UNC-Chapel Hill, as it is paramount to the success of the Community Director as they supervise, mentor and counsel students and staff. Rick Bradley, our Assistant Director for Assignments and Marketing observed this in Justin and mentioned this me, "Justin Lukasewicz truly understands the concept of community immersion that we use as an overarching departmental philosophy at UNC. He displays this in many ways, but what has impressed me the most is how well he knows his residents, their relationships with roommates, and their personal circumstances." The Resident Advisors that Justin supervises cite that he really gets to know them as well. One RA recently gave feedback about Justin stating, "It's been a great experience working with Justin (and I know it will be all year long!)"

Justin is committed to working with students, as evidenced by the glowing remarks they have about him. Justin has gone above and beyond his regular Community Director duties and has served as a co-advisor to the Residence Hall Association on campus for the past year and a half. UNC-Chapel Hill Student Atembe Fonge had this to say, "I first met Justin when I became the National Communications Coordinator for my school's Residence Hall Association. I had no idea what to expect from my new position, but Justin made sure to tell me everything he knew while making sure I learned and grew as a leader on my own. His enthusiasm about RHA conferences, the organization, and residence life in general has been contagious and his excitement has made me really enjoy working with residents at my university as well as all over the country. Justin is an adviser for RHA as well as a residence hall community director, but he always makes time for each person he advises. He's been a wonderful adviser to me and everyone else in RHA."

Our current Residence Hall Association President, Christina Fluet, was so excited about nominating Justin for the Outstanding New Professional Award that I couldn't edit her support of him! It is evident from Christina's comments and can be extrapolated that Justin has great support from the students he works with day in and day out. Here is what



Christina had to say, "Having worked with Justin Lukasewicz for almost two years, I have experienced nothing but a strong passion for student affairs both inside housing and residential life, and outside. In addition to being a Community Director for the Parker Community at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he is heavily involved with the Residence Hall Association (RHA) as an advisor, and with the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) as a member of the RHA/NRHH Tunnel of Oppression Planning Committee.

As president of the Residence Hall Association, I have spent a great deal of time with and around Justin and of the many character traits I value about Justin, there are two that stand out the most: For starters, Justin will always enter meetings, gatherings, or new experiences with a good attitude and a smiling face. I have never seen Justin in a bad mood and it is evident to me that his positivity often inspires his peers and the people around him, including myself. The second character trait is Justin's ability to seamlessly offer innovative and creative insight in an inclusive and thoughtful manner. There has been a multitude of occasions where I have seen Justin carefully give his opinion as it relates to what a person or a group is experiencing, but it doesn't stop there. The great thing about Justin's input is that he never just offers personal opinions or judgmental statements; rather, his input is not only influenced by his knowledge about Student Affairs and Residential Life but also by what the other individual or group is saying/feeling. Justin is an active and fair listener whose well-thought-out input always seems to be valued by the recipient, regardless of the subject at hand.

Not only has Justin demonstrated outstanding performance in his position as a Community Director, but he has gone above and beyond with his involvement in the Residence Hall Association and the National Residence Hall Honorary. Over the past two years, Justin has helped the RHA National Communication Coordinator improve RHA's presence on the national, regional, and state level, and as a result of his strong advisory skills RHA will be taking one of the largest delegations of the past decade to the North Carolina Association of Residence Halls Conference in February - this will amount to almost 15 students and two advisors. Additionally, over the summer, Justin worked days in and days out with the RHA Enhancements Chairperson to get a new Enhancements system installed in all 15 on-campus communities on the UNC-CH campus. This new system will allow our 8,600 residents to flawlessly rent DVDs, cleaning supplies, recreational equipment, games, etc. as a way to enhance their on-campus living experience at Carolina.

Finally, Justin's input as a member of the RHA/NRHH Tunnel of Oppression Planning Committee has been nothing but valuable. Being experienced in planning a Tunnel of Oppression program before and very passionate and excited about social activism, Justin always offers new ideas and considerations as we move forward with the planning process in order to have a successful program at the end of March.

Working with Justin these past two years has been an incredible learning experience. He adds so much value, excitement, and passion to his position in the Department of Housing



as well as the additional commitments he has made to RHA and NRHH. He always goes above and beyond to make any experience enjoyable, memorable, and valuable. I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to work with him and am confident that Justin is fully deserving of the SEAHO Outstanding New Professional Award."

It is not just the students on campus that feel this way, either! Justin's co-advisor, Annice Fisher, Coordinator for Learning and Leadership, also adds, "Justin is one of the most efficient professionals I have ever worked with. He has managed multiple roles given each the appropriate time and effort needed to make them successful. He has helped to revive RHA culture at UNC, community government involvement in his own community, and challenge NRHH to redevelop its selection practices to recruit more active members. Never complaining about late nights and lost weekends, Justin always brings an energetic spirit that keeps our students motivated to be at their best. I cannot imagine being successful as an RHA/NRHH advisor without his support."

As Justin's supervisor, I have noticed that in addition to his day-to-day responsibilities, he has worked on several special projects this past year, and has done very well with them. For example, with his special projects, he enjoyed working with and learning about a variety of different subjects, from his language house faculty partnerships, to energy conservation and campus safety. As mentioned by Christina Fluet he is also co-advising a group of students in a campus wide Tunnel of Oppression program. He does this all with energy and enthusiasm, but brings an original feeling to each project and idea. As Scott Iverson, my Assistant Director colleague states, "Justin is more open to new and innovative ideas than many staff I have worked with in the past. He brings this openness and energy to everything he does and has established a positive and progressive community while being a valuable presence for our department as a whole."

Justin is also committed to the profession and becoming a better professional himself. Justin stays active with professional organizations and current information. Justin is currently serving on the SEAHO Graduate and New Professional Committee and is enjoying working with this group immensely. An additional highlight came this past summer, when Justin attended RELI and gained a great deal from this experience. He came back to campus full of amazing ideas and energy for his position, but also learned about what he might want to experience to grow. Gay Perez, our Associate Director for Housing and Residential Education has noticed this professionalism in Justin. Gay mentioned, "It is refreshing and gratifying to have an individual of Justin's caliber as a member of our departmental staff. His engaging and developmental approach to working with our students resonates with every interaction he has whether it is holding a student accountable, advising the leadership of a student organization, or supervising his student staff. As a new professional, his performance in the Community Director role is nothing short of exceptional. As he continues on his career path, I predict that he will have many doors open to him based on his innate abilities and skills as well as his positive attitude and commitment to the ideals of our profession."



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As you can see, so many here at UNC-Chapel Hill think Justin is a terrific professional! He demonstrates a positive and creative energy in all he does. He is very committed to the field and has a desire to keep improving, and advance in the field of Housing. In a time when so many young professionals are leaving the field, I know that Justin will be one to stick around give back to the profession repeatedly. Check back in several years time...SEAHO Founders Award here he comes! I can't say it any better than our Director of Housing and Residential Education, Larry Hicks, "Justin's professionalism, engagement with students, creativity, and proactive manner in which he takes on new challenges is very impressive. Justin is deserving of this award!"

Sincerely,

Katie Bartholomew
Assistant Director
Housing and Residential Education
UNC-Chapel Hill