



Housing and Residence Life

January 4, 2010

Letter of Support
Katie Kanable
Area Coordinator
University of Central Florida

Dear SEAHO Awards Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of Katie Kanable as reference material for the SEAHO James T. Grimm New Professional of the Year selection process. I have worked with Katie, as her direct supervisor, for the past two years that she has served as a Housing and Residence Life Area Coordinator at the University of Central Florida. I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand Katie's creative efforts and new initiatives to develop her staff and our department.

Katie is currently responsible for overseeing our RHAP (late night) staff. This program has been in existence for over ten years but I believe that it has never been stronger. Katie's leadership and vision has improved the training, supervision and recognition for these student staff members. Although she faced resistance to change Katie was able to overcome it. This is just one example of why I believe Katie is an outstanding new professional.

Katie came to UCF with a strong interest in StrengthsQuest. She took the initiative to seek out the StrengthsQuest conference in order to gain more skills and knowledge. Once Katie arrived back to campus she wrote a proposal to pilot StrengthsQuest with her community staff. She has also facilitated several activities and training sessions for our professional and graduate staff.

Katie has taken extra initiative to develop her office assistant staff as individuals and as a team. Katie's attention to detail is every supervisor's dream. She takes a lot of pride in the quality of her work and efforts. Katie is extremely dedicated and those around her only benefit from her hard work and efforts.

Katie is involved in our university and departmental family weekend efforts. She served on the division wide Family Weekend committee and was responsible for coordinating the schedule. Katie also coordinated our first Family Friendly Tailgate and hosted a reception for student staff family members. Katie is always going out of her way to support RHA and area council initiatives. She presented at our fall retreat, shows support at meetings and programs.

Please consider Katie as the truly remarkable new professional that she has proven herself to be. I have every confidence that Katie is a great example of what the James T. Grimm New Professional of the Year stands for. I think that new professionals tend to go above beyond and Katie does just that. What I think makes Katie a little unique is that she is also extremely intentional and thoughtful in her efforts to teach and develop those around her. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding Katie's skills and experience.

Sincerely,

Sarah A. Oleksy

Sarah A. Oleksy
Assistant Director
Housing and Residence Life