



**Office of Residence Life**  
*Student Affairs*  
537 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506-0027  
Phone: (859) 257-4784  
Fax: (859) 323-4941  
[www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu)

January 12, 2009

Dear Mr. Stauffer & SEAHQ Awards Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Ms. Leslie Woltenberg to receive the 2009 James C. Grimm Outstanding New Professional Award. Upon reviewing the SEAHQ information, I immediately thought of Leslie as incredibly deserving of this honor. She is a wonderful example of an enthusiastic and dedicated young professional, and someone who has come up through our Residence Life system demonstrating the very kind of growth and development we aspire to foster in our students. In my mind, she is the epitome of what an outstanding new professional in our field should be—hard working, open, curious, creative, and always seeking ways to improve.

Even before I officially assumed my role as Assistant Director of Academic Initiatives on August 1, Leslie had already earned my respect and admiration. As Living Learning Communities Coordinator, she had been asked to step up to the plate in the absence of an assistant director, and she did a marvelous job. Although I am technically her supervisor, we truly function as a two-woman team when it comes to our academic programs and initiatives. Her passion for her work and her extensive familiarity with our campus are two of the many things which make Leslie a competent and capable staff member. Furthermore, *she* was instrumental in helping *me* learn the ropes of my new job!

Leslie's enthusiasm is ceaseless, and her genuine desire to serve others is apparent in all that she does. She has the good fortune of having her office located in one of our residence halls, and the students there quickly learned that Leslie was someone to whom they could turn with questions, needs, good news, constructive feedback, or to simply say hello. She has built fantastic rapport with students and staff members alike. The joy she takes in her work is evident, not only to me, but to them as well. What's more, her colleagues on our senior staff sincerely respect her. They know, without doubt, that she has been in their shoes and that she always has the best interests of students at heart.

As I think about what's in store for Leslie's career, I can say with great confidence that she has the ability to be and do whatever she would wish to. I can also say with certainty that she will continue to make valuable contributions to our campus and our profession. We have conversed, at length, about her future aspirations—and this young woman will not be one to let much grass grow under her feet! She is continuously cognizant of her educational and professional goals, and she is as intentional about improving herself as she is about helping our students improve themselves. She is eager to serve, learn, grow, and to be a consummate professional. Having worked with her for just six months, I know that she is well on her way. For that reason, among many others, I believe Leslie Woltenberg to be highly deserving of the James C. Grimm Outstanding New Professional Award. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information to support her nomination.

Sincerely,  
Marianne Lorensen  
Assistant Director, Academic Initiatives  
[melorensen@uky.edu](mailto:melorensen@uky.edu)