



To: The Southeastern Association for Housing Officers Awards Committee

From: Louis D. Bregger *Louis D. Bregger*  
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Re: Nomination of Ms. Ashley D. Wichman for SEAH Graduate Student of the Year Award

Date: January 6, 2010

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Ashley Wichman for this award. I have worked with Ashley for the past two years as she serves as the Housing Resident Director for our Cultural Exchange Community (CEC). The CEC provides an international living and learning community on campus where undergraduate international students live with undergraduate American students in campus apartments. The CEC offers students an opportunity to learn about and explore each other's culture in an engaging environment. With special programs and connections to the broader international community on campus, it provides residents with a wealth of opportunities to connect with people from all over the world.

Over these last two years, I have gotten to know her well. She has provided key leadership and vision to build upon this program and make it one of the most innovative and successful living learning communities on campus. The CEC is a unique collaboration among four offices: International Programming, Housing, International Affairs and the Department of Languages. Ashley has been successful in working across these lines that connect academics with student affairs. Internationalizing the campus is an important goal for Clemson University and Ashley's work with this program has been very important in this regard.

She has shown great leadership and innovation in this relatively new program. She heads our CEC Programming Committee and supervises and works closely with the two RA's who are assigned to the program as well as working with higher ups in Housing who support and value this program. In addition, she works closely with the two Resident Cultural Assistants (RCA's) who are international staff and students who live in the community and support programming efforts. The CEC has done much to internationalize the campus. Ashley also resides in the area of the CEC and participates in many programs and provides key leadership to make them happen.

She appreciates diversity. She has demonstrated great sensitivity to cultural differences that exist in the CEC community and helps the RA's and Housing as a whole to respond to these differences. Our students really like and respect her. Among her duties, Ashley assists with our international orientation and the planning of exciting programs and events through the semester. She is a team player who willingly pitches in to help and support the overall programs and goals of the CEC. Our program is unique in that most international students come for only one semester so each new term is like starting over again to build a successful experience in the CEC. She shows her creative and positive excitement for the program all the time. Planning a Formal for the community was perhaps the most innovative program and this was truly appreciated by the whole community, internationals and Americans alike.

In summation, Ashley is an exceptional individual with dedication who is filled with energy and enthusiasm. She is very outgoing and has highly developed communication and leadership skills. She is a team player who approaches tasks with great professionalism. She is dedicated and I highly recommend her. It would be very fitting for her to receive this award. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.