



## Housing and Residence Life

January 12, 2010

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to my Graduate Assistant, Carla McKnight. She has had an incredible impact on my life, not only professionally, but also academically and personally. I have learned a great deal from her, and I know that I am forever changed by her intentional effort to invest in my life.

Since the first time we met, Carla has placed herself on an easy, approachable level that has enabled our relationship to be vulnerable and "real" as we like to call it. From the start she did not hesitate to begin getting acquainted and asking deep questions about my life. Though it was the first meeting, I did not hesitate in return because she had an unspoken trusting nature about her. She asked me questions about my life as a Resident Assistant, and made it easy and comfortable to open up about my weaknesses and struggles. Through those discussions she has encouraged and challenged me to grow and mature not only professionally but also personally. She saw that my job was a temporary station in my life to learn important lessons and gain new strengths that could be used in the future. Carla has not only taught me through our talks together, but she's also shown me everything in the way she lives her life. I have seen her in high stress situations, and not once has she reacted abruptly without collecting her thoughts first. Even when she is not intentionally setting an example, she is an admirable role model that can be held above the highest standards. Our staff has been through a few times that needed mediation, and Carla handled it in the most professional way possible. I observed a lot from these instances; it was not merely a matter of following protocol, she challenged our staff to grow and mature through the situation. She taught me lessons that have greatly affected my performance professionally and academically.

Carla has made such an impact in my college career and future career that I can never thank her fully for what she has done. I hope to continue a friendship with her when we move on from this staff. Simply being in the same room with her challenges me to keep pushing myself more and more in this adventure called life.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kimberly Sapp