



**Department of Housing
and Residence Life**

Dear SEAHO Awards and Recognition Committee:

I can say, without hesitation, that in my 10 years of professional housing and residence life experience, I have rarely seen a new professional with such passion and conviction as **Justin Williams**. I am honored to have him on my team and I am thrilled to be nominating him for the *James C. Grimm Outstanding New Professional Award*.

Justin Williams is in his third year as an Area Coordinator at the University of Central Florida (UCF). Unlike a traditional Area Coordinator position on the campus, Justin works with our “affiliated” housing (a partnership with a private management company to provide housing to university students). While we all dream of a seamless relationship with the managers of the property, it is often rather challenging. There is absolutely no way this complex could function as well as it does without Justin’s organization, initiative, dedication, teamwork and the leadership he provides to the management company and his colleagues and staff that work by his side. Serving as a champion for his residents and as a voice for UCF, he has stood up to the management company more than once and more often than not won the battle. This company is not known for being flexible or passive, so this is quite an accomplishment for such a young professional.

The complex Justin works and lives in is one of the largest on the east coast and is definitely not immune to very serious problems ranging from pregnant residents to violent, armed robberies and everything in between. He handles these situations with professionalism and confidence – learning all that he can from each occasion. He, himself, was even a victim of a serious crime at the complex. While this could have easily dampened his spirits, he persevered

and he was even able to learn something from that incident. Not too bad for a young professional, huh?

Teamwork is a word this young professional has helped define in our department. Justin will never be one to sacrifice his personal needs or standards, but if he has a free moment, he will volunteer for anything he can get his hands into. He realizes that in order for our team to function to best serve our students, everyone must make an effort. That being said, he will be the first to hold someone who is not pulling their weight accountable. His growth and maturity, particularly in this area, is a tribute to his overall loyalty, character and professionalism.

I have the pleasure of supervising six Area Coordinators, a few of which have many, many years of experience, and it is virtually impossible to differentiate Justin from his seasoned colleagues. I joined the UCF team not too long ago and admittedly would be very lost without him. Justin is an amazing help and resource to me and his colleagues, however you would never know it if you asked him as he is painfully humble and modest. I am thankful there are awards such as this to recognize professionals like Justin.

The staff and students who work with Justin will only benefit from his knowledge and insight. His personal motto that his staff and colleagues will never work harder than he does and his ability to maintain an extremely healthy attitude among waves of insanity made my decision to nominate **Justin Williams** for the *James C. Grimm Outstanding New Professional Award* and easy one.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jess Raymond

Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life
University of Central Florida



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