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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great excitement that I submit my letter of application for the SEAHO Annual Conference Fee Waiver. I currently work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the position of Community Director. I am halfway through my 2nd year in this position. Last night, I was sitting in the main lobby of my community with a few Resident Advisors on my staff and some of our residents. For three hours, we engaged in impromptu conversation that spanned a myriad of topics from gender identity to parenting to the Bill of Rights and Constitutional Law. After I finally decided to leave (around 11:00 pm), I walked to my apartment completely rejuvenated and excited about my career in Student Affairs. My interactions with students, whom I affectionately call "my kids," affirm daily that my career is a calling. I can best serve them by continuing to pursue education and involvement in student development and student affairs.

I am applying for the SEAHO Annual Conference Fee Waiver for several reasons. Primarily, the financial assistance in attending SEAHO 2009 would be beneficial. As Community Directors at UNC only receive \$800 a year for Professional Development, it is necessary that I budget it wisely. I decided early on to attend SEAHO and NASPA, and I am applying for the New Professionals Institute. Costs for all of these events will be in excess of \$1500. This leaves \$700 that I will have to pay out of pocket. Having my SEAHO Conference registration waived will help to alleviate some of the financial burden. I have attended SEAHO in the past and have co-presented for the DREAM programming track. I understand the value of what happens at conferences for professional housing officers – through the partners that provide goods and services for our residential facilities, the peer mentor program, the case study competition, the plenary speakers, and the variety of educational sessions offered. It is vital for us to constantly understand and progress our service to our students, regardless of our experience levels. SEAHO offers worthwhile experiences for us as professionals. I am truly looking forward to attending the conference after a hiatus last year and taking advantage of the opportunities therein.

I was raised in the world of NCARH, SAACURH, and NACURH as an undergraduate at NC State University, where I was introduced to the excitement and passion of student affairs and leadership. Because of the strong foundation built at NC State and as a graduate student at Florida State University, I have been able to further explore my interests and strengths in Student Affairs. Since obtaining my graduate degree, I have attended several professional conferences, including the NASPA Multicultural Institute, the North Carolina College Personnel Association (NCCPA) Conference, and the Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA) Annual Meeting. At the 2009 NASPA Conference, I will be co-presenting a session entitled "Colorblindness in Millennial Students: Nourishing Learning Partnerships to Move Beyond Diversity to Achieve Multiculturalism and Social Justice." I hold memberships in NASPA, NCCPA, and AFA as well as participate when possible through institutional memberships in NCHO, SEAHO, and ACUHO-I. At my institution, I have participated in several division workshops including effective communication and conference presentation techniques. Within the Department of Housing and Residential Education, I have served on the Diversity Initiatives and Health and Wellness Committees. Within the Division of Student Affairs, I participated on the Women's Week 2008 planning committee and was invited back to participate in the planning of Women's Week 2009. I was the departmental representative to and coordinator of volunteers for the FallFest 2008 Committee, UNC's annual kickoff event held in August to acclimate new students to resources at the University. My primary area of interest within student affairs deals with students and faculty/staff identifying in the LGBTIQQ community. I have been Safe Zone (LBG issues) and Safe Zone Challenge (TIQ issues) trained through the LGBT Center on campus. I am also a trained facilitator for the Safe Zone program and conduct trainings for the University at-large a few times per semester. I have also co-facilitated a session for a group of my Sorority sisters. I recently presented a session on the coming out process to student staff and will present on issues in the transgender community to my some of my fellow Community Director next week. In my position, I am responsible for advising the Craige Community Government. I have tried to instill core values in the Community Government officers so that they are able to plan successfully, be financially savvy, and are able to keep their mission in all they do and represent. As current National President of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Incorporated, I also provide general advisement to college women in 27 chapters across the nation.

I am anxious to further educate myself at the SEAHO 2009 Annual Conference next month. I am willing to participate in the Peer Mentor Program and will enthusiastically submit an account to the SEAHO President. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to seeing you all in Alabama!

Regards,



LaToya E. Eaves