

**Division of Student Affairs** PO Box 112100

Housing and Residence Education Gainesville, FL 32611-2100

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Dear SEAHO Awards Committee:

I am writing to nominate Laura Templeton for the SEAHO Graduate Student of the Year Award. I have had the pleasure to serve as Laura’s direct supervisor for the past year and a half and am privileged to have the opportunity to interact with her on a daily basis in professional, academic and residential settings. As a staff member Laura is a complete joy to work with. She maintains a high level of visibility in her building, throughout our area and within the University of Florida’s Department of Housing and Residence Education. In this her first housing position Laura has excelled in the areas of staff supervision, advising and crisis response.

Laura is a highly motivated student who needs little direction in completing a project or task. As a leader, she asks questions on the front end and then makes her own decisions based on a combination of information and intuition. Her sense of dedication and organizational skills, as well as her ability to genuinely connect with people are perhaps her greatest attributes in my opinion and have been integral in the continued success of the East Hall Engineering Community. In her first year as a Graduate Hall Director and first role as a housing staff member Laura worked tirelessly to motivate and develop four students serving in non-compensated, newly piloted Peer Mentor positions. Her work with these student volunteers set the standards and expectations for what is now a paid Peer Mentor position, held by upperclassmen in the University of Florida’s College of Engineering

Outside of her classes, graduate assistantship and other voluntary commitments to our Department Laura volunteers with the Alachua County Crisis Center. She currently serves as a Crisis Hotline Operator and member of the Community Care team, a role that takes her into the community to deliver crisis notification and assist in immediate crisis management. Laura uses the skills and experiences learned in this volunteer position to make herself a better Hall Director and serves as a resource for student staff and her colleagues.

Through all of her extra-curricular involvement, Laura still maintains an excellent academic record and a student first mentality. Amazingly Laura is able to balance school, work, and extracurricular activities impressively well. While I have only known her for a short time I am duly impressed with Laura, particularly her performance and sense of dedication to her students, staff and our profession! Because of her exceptional character, outstanding record of leadership and service and commitment to developing students into productive members of society it is my distinct honor to nominate Laura Templeton for the SEAHO Graduate Student of the Year Award. I truly feel that there are few, if any, more deserving! Please feel free to contact me at (352) 392-2171; Ext. 11002 or through email at [masonr@housing.ufl.edu](mailto:masonr@housing.ufl.edu) if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mason L. Reuter

Residence Life Coordinator

Tolbert – Keys Residential Areas