Dear SEAHO Awards Selection Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for Megan Horan, NC State Residence Director, as SEAHO Graduate Student of the Year. As the NC State Associate Director of Central Campus and Megan’s indirect supervisor, I have been able to witness her wonderful work as Tucker RD since fall 2007. Tucker is a large building housing 362 residents and is home to the First Year College Living and Learning Community. Megan is fully responsible for all aspects of running Tucker hall including staff supervision, programming, judicial hearings, budget tracking, administration, hall council advising, programming, and building maintenance. Being a full time graduate student and entirely responsible for all aspects of running such a large building is a huge undertaking for any part time RD. In addition, Megan has an extra special role as a key leader in developing the First Year College Living and Learning Village housed in her building. As the Tucker RD Megan is confident, sees the big picture, takes full ownership for her area of responsibility, creates a vision and action plan for her area, follows through, attends to details, is positive, caring, engaging, proactive, hard working and willing to go the extra mile.

Megan is an effective supervisor and community builder who has created a team that clearly understands their expectations, is skilled and confident in executing their responsibilities, and is motivated to continually address the immense personal, academic and behavioral concerns of a large freshman population. Under her guidance, the Tucker staff buys into the importance of the unique FYCV living and learning environment and do their part to support the mission of that very special program. Megan is proactive and is continually strategically planning how to build a positive community. Towards that end she has created a comprehensive programming model that takes into consideration the transitions that her students are experiencing as well as the First Year College Living and Learning Village mission and goals. RAs and Resident Mentors see the quality of work that Megan produces, her daily investment, continual availability, immense enthusiasm for all that is Tucker, her heart felt care for individuals, and they in tern strive to do the same. Megan understands where her students are developmentally, holds them accountable for their behavior, and challenges them to continue in their personal growth. She does this through being visible and available, engaging with students, and establishing relationships that are personal and supportive. She connects with students yet sets a tone of respect for her leadership role. Students trust that Megan has their best interest at heart, and know that they can count on her for assistance and support

In addition to her tremendous work as a Residence Director, Megan has served as an intern in the Office of Greek Life, New Student Orientation, as well as for the Academic Support Program for Student Athletics. She also reaches beyond her hall and academic internships to serve as a Molly Hayes Glander Rape Crisis Hotline Responder, and a Safe Zone Alley for the GLBT Community. Megan is extremely committed, fully invested, smart, intuitive, a team player, displays a positive attitude and is willing to learn. No one would ever know that she doesn’t have a Housing background – she is a natural. The Student Affairs profession is very fortunate to be gaining a professional of such high caliber. I am in full support of her nomination as the SEAHO Graduate Student of the Year!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ruppe

Associate Director, Central Campus

NC State University