Dear Sir or Madam,

## For six years, I have had the privilege of working both within and alongside Louisiana State University’s Residential Colleges. In particular, I have seen these communities grow under the guidance and support of our department’s Director; Steven D. Waller. During this time I have witnessed the rich tradition of academic and developmental excellence that these communities exemplify. Over the time period that I have spent with these ground-breaking communities, I have observed a number of benefits to both the students and the organization as a whole. These include: consistently higher grade point averages and retention rates in comparison to both non-residential college communities and off campus populations; more seamless links to classroom experiences through co-curricular programming, and a demonstrably increased faculty presence within residential life operations. I have been consistently amazed by the amount of investment and compassion for students that faculty and staff demonstrate and vice versa, especially when interacting with them in non-traditional roles (e.g. personal development and/or advising).

## As a result of the vision and direction provided by Mr. Waller, many of our traditional communities look to the residential colleges for solid example of what living and learning can and should be. The communities provide a good balance between the leadership, academic and personal facets of students’ lives and serve to help residents in the process of preparing for interdependent leadership and civic engagement after graduation. In my opinion, Louisiana State University’s Residential College Program would be a welcomed addition to the ranks of fine organizations and initiatives upon which the SEAHO Housing and Academic Collaboration Award has be bestowed. If you have any questions regarding these comments or my own interactions with Mr. Waller or the Residential Colleges, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Nik Clegorne

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