*27 January 2010*

Dear Members of the SEAHO Awards Committee,

One of the true pleasures in my profession is to provide an enthusiastic expression of support for a person or program that truly excels. It is in that spirit that I am writing in support of **Louisiana State University’s Residential Colleges Program** for the 2010 SEAHO Housing and Academic Collaboration award. I have watched the Program grow from two residential colleges to nine during my services as the program’s Faculty Director (half-time appointment) since 2006, so I feel qualified to comment on the successes that LSU’s Department of Residential Life has been able to achieve. Please allow me to elaborate.

Our Program includes an ambitious effort to engage students both by academic college and by interest. The former gives students an opportunity to live and learn with others with the same major and rallies faculty from that college to support the students both in and out of class. The latter gives students the opportunity to meet others who share a common interest in easing the transition to university life, globalization, or technology, regardless of major. A significant commitment to providing facilities in support of the academic mission has been provided by construction of a beautiful Residential Colleges Complex, and significant renovations to several other halls, even during an era of particularly severe budget constraints.

I am particularly proud that my university has demonstrated its commitment to the Residential Colleges Program by including it as one of only two interdisciplinary academic programs that receive special attention in planning and assessment in LSU’s reports to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. By all accounts of which I am aware, the LSU Office of Academic Affairs sees the program as a jewel in LSU’s list of successes in undergraduate education. The retention and grade point averages of the students in our program confirm the Program’s success.

I hope that you will recognize the rapid progress that the LSU Residential College Program has made in the last decade by considering it for the SEAHO Housing and Academic Collaboration Award. Please contact me at 578-6137 if you have any questions or require further supporting information.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Rohli

Robert V. Rohli

# *Associate Professor of Geography*

*Faculty Director, LSU Residential Colleges Program*