January 8, 2010

Dear SEAHO Award Review Committee:

Please accept this letter of recommendation for W. Jeff Cooper, Associate Director of Residence Life. Jeff Cooper joined the KSU team in June 2008 as our first associate director. He had previously served as Director at Lynn University in south Florida, and prior to that had worked at Rollins College, University of Tampa, University of South Florida, and was an RA at Florida State University. Throughout his career Jeff has always been active at his institutions and in the field. Jeff serves as state editor for the Florida Housing Officers, advisor for the Florida Association of Residence Halls, and has received numerous awards for his work with RHA and SAACURH. Jeff also served on the ACUHO-I host committee for the 2008 conference in Orlando.

Since arriving at KSU, Jeff's contributions have been invaluable. Jeff's first project was to create a comprehensive staff development model that would address both professional and personal growth for our rapidly expanding department. He completed this project and had it fully implemented in time for the summer professional staff retreat, less than one month after his arrival (despite needing to travel back to Orlando to assist with ACUHO-I). He quickly organized the new Coordinators, who also began when he did, to revamp and enhance the programming model and expand RA training. Arriving only a couple of short months before the opening of our first fully dedicated first-year experience suites facility, he researched and implemented a pilot FYRE (First Year Residential Experience) program, and also helped shape a co-curricular model for sophomore-dedicated programming. The initial FYRE pilot was small, but quickly grew and in just one year the FYRE program this past fall opening had over 400 voluntary participants. Under Jeff's leadership, the NRHH and RHA were both revived, and Jeff became the key contact for on-call crisis intervention.

In addition to his service within the department, Jeff became quickly involved in numerous key campus committees, such as the AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug) committee, TIV (Task Force on Interpersonal Violence), and Suicide Prevention Task Force. Jeff assumed a leadership role in all of these committees, heading up the sub-committees on programming. Within Jeff's first year, there was also a vacany within the department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, so in addition to all of his other functions, Jeff took on the responsibilities of interim assistant director for student conduct, serving as the sole administrative hearing officer for all suspendable code of conduct cases for the entire university, which has a total enrollment of 22,500 students.

Jeff has remained active in professional associations, completing his responsibilities for the Florida Housing Officers even after moving to Georgia. Jeff also presented at NASPA in Seattle, and has remained actively engaged with his colleagues from the SACSA/NASPA Region III Mid-Manager's Institute. Most notibly at KSU, Jeff has frequently stepped in to assist with CHO-related functions when the Director was called upon to manage interim dean of students responsibilities. In many ways, Jeff has been the functional director of residence life, without the title or pay. Jeff also volunteered to teach a section of KSU1101, the freshmen seminar, for no additional compensation. Jeff is truly an outstanding professional, and will be an exceptional future CHO.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Sanseviro, Ph. D.