January 11, 2010

Gay Perez, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Chair, SEAHO Awards and Recognition Committee

1218 SASB North / CB#5500

Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5500

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of Dan Stypa, a graduate student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Dan is being nominated for the SEAHO Graduate Student of the Year Award. Since August 2009, Dan has served as a practicum student in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs on our campus. A definitive sign of his commitment to our profession and to our institution, Dan does not need to complete this practicum for academic reasons. He has completed his practicum requirements through other means but requested to work with us in an effort to gain professional experience and to interact with students whom he might not otherwise encounter.

Dan’s responsibilities in Student Judicial Affairs include maintaining 10 office hours per week, meeting regularly with students who have been placed on disciplinary probation, and assisting with department activities such as selection and training of student judicial board members. Dan has met each responsibility with professionalism, an open mind, and a strong work ethic. He is faithful to his office hours and has made significant contributions to the training program we have in place for our board members. The most significant contribution however has been Dan’s mentorship of students on disciplinary probation. At the University of Tennessee, students on disciplinary probation are required to meet with a member of our staff approximately every four to six weeks until their probation period ends. During these meetings, we talk with students about goal setting, positive/healthy decision-making, and assist them in finding ways of becoming increasingly engaged in the university community. Dan has taken this responsibility very seriously and assisted multiple students during the course of his first semester in our office. I am very pleased to report that Dan will continue to work with us during the spring 2010 semester in the same capacity.

Dan assumed the responsibilities in Student Judicial Affairs in addition to his responsibilities as a graduate assistant in University Housing, his academic obligations, and his work on a variety of committees in the Division of Student Affairs. Dan is well-liked, respected, and sought after by colleagues for a variety of roles in our division. I look forward to his future success and am proud to consider him a colleague. Please contact me if additional information is needed. I hope you will support Dan’s nomination for the SEAHO Graduate Student of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

Michelle Espinosa

Director, Student Judicial Affairs