

Dear University Senate Awards Committee,

I am honored to have been nominated for the 2018 Loyalty Award. Below is a brief narrative of my service to Louisiana Tech that will give you a glimpse of my loyalty for our University. Should you need additional information please let me know.

The first time I experienced Louisiana Tech was in June of 1994. I had graduated from high school and had plans to attend college with my best friend at LSU that fall. Fortunately for me, my mom had many friends whose children attended Louisiana Tech, and she strongly encouraged me to schedule a visit. I agreed, but we were not spending the night in Ruston. After my visit I thought, I might as well give this place a try. The people there were kind, the campus was clean, and I liked the professors I had the opportunity to meet in the College of Business. Wanting to remain in control of the situation, I only agreed to one quarter with the thought I could always move back home. Well, it has almost been a quarter of a century and my experiences from that first taste of the Tech Family to my job today have been tremendous!

My involvement as a student in various campus activities and organizations allowed me to develop relationships with the administration as well as with the faculty and staff. I made it a priority to get to know the people on campus whether it was Frank who helps keep the grounds looking good, or Mrs. Virginia who makes the delicious desserts in the cafeteria, or those in administration like Dr. Jean Hall who was always providing advice and encouragement. Developing these relationships was important, but getting valuable work experience was also a priority for me. Seeing an advertisement in The Tech Talk for an advertising sales representative was what lead me to my first job at Tech– selling ads for The Tech Talk. After one quarter as a college student, things were going great in all areas of my life. I knew Tech was the place for me! During my second quarter at Tech, I was promoted to Advertising Manager of the Tech Talk, where I served until graduation in November of 1998. This position provided me with an opportunity to work with not only those on campus but the entire Ruston business community. Who knew selling ads for the school newspaper would lead me to my next “job” at Louisiana Tech – Orientation Student Leader.

Having created the advertisement seeking applications for Orientation Student Leaders I thought, “This would be a great way to share my love for Louisiana Tech,” so I applied and was selected to be member of the 1997 Summer OSL Staff. We worked many hours as a staff but I enjoyed every aspect of the experience. The following summer I was selected to serve as the Parent Orientation Leader, where I had the opportunity to interact not only with students but their parents as well. This position provided me with another opportunity to serve what would soon become my alma mater. Little did I know when I began that position that the Director of Orientation would be moving at the end of the summer, which lead to my first full time job at Louisiana Tech, Director of Orientation and Recruiter. Was I excited? Just a little! I had the opportunity to remain at Tech and recruit students to come to the place that helped mold me into the young professional that I had become. It was truly a blessing. Spending the fall on the road sharing the exciting happenings at Tech with high school students and their parents at college fairs, while during the winter and spring, I was busy preparing for orientation and showing prospective students and their parents campus. That campus tour that I took back in 1994, was what changed my life. I was thrilled to be able to share my experiences at Tech with future

Bulldogs. Summer, of course, was filled with overseeing the Summer Orientation program where incoming freshmen flooded the campus learning all they could as they begin their journey as a college student.

My love for Louisiana Tech was strong and I hated to make a move, but the time had come early in 2001. I knew I wanted to continue my education while gaining valuable professional experience. The opportunity to serve as the Assistant Director of Admission at another university presented itself with the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree. This opportunity was not a great fit for me, nor was I going to be able to reach my goal of obtaining a Master's degree. Therefore, with much thought and consideration I resigned to be able to pursue my degree full time later that year. After visiting a number of schools, I had the opportunity to return to the place I called home, Louisiana Tech. I pursued my Master's in Business Administration while gaining valuable work experience serving as the graduate assistant in the Division of University Advancement. Dr. Jean Hall and Corre Stegall provided me with an opportunity that would propel me into the next chapter of my life. I was encouraged, mentored, and taught all the aspects of the Alumni Association and the University Foundation. I never dreamed that I would spend thirteen years as a part of the team that shared the good news of Louisiana Tech with alumni across the country, serving first as Coordinator of Alumni Programs and later as Director of Alumni Relations. What a wonderful way for me to be able to continue to serve the place that I am so fond of – my alma mater.

Then the opportunity to continue to serve our University in a different, but very important way, was presented to me. Reggie Hanchey was retiring after thirty-five years of service. This left Dr. Guice with the task of finding someone to assist him in the President's Office. What a natural transition for me as I knew most of the staff on campus and our alums across the country. I was honored to be considered for this critical role and enthusiastically accepted the position in May 2014. It has been such a pleasure for me to work with and for a man that loves his University the way Dr. Guice loves Louisiana Tech. His example has strengthened my loyalty for our great University. Being loyal requires you to be willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish the task of making Louisiana Tech the best University it can be. For me that could mean planning events for distinguished guest, visiting with alumni/donors, serving on committees to plan for the future development/beautification of campus, or even task as simple as picking up trash as I walk across campus. Each day I strive to make Louisiana Tech a better place for our students, faculty, staff and for generations to come.

I look forward to many more years of service to Louisiana Tech and I will truly "Ever Loyal Be to the My Alma Mater."

Ryan W. Richard
Louisiana Tech University
Office of the President
Coordinator of Planning and Advancement



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 27, 2018

Louisiana Tech University
University Senate Awards Selection Committee

Dear Selection Committee,

It is an honor and a privilege to recommend Mr. Ryan Richard for the Senate Loyalty Award. Ryan is President Les Guice's Coordinator of Planning and Advancement. This is only one title but the list of tasks Ryan accomplishes would be a never ending document. I believe Ryan would make the most excellent choice to earn the Loyalty Award and here are a few reasons why.

When I worked in Human Resources several years ago, the name "Ryan" kept coming up... Ryan can take this, Ryan can take that, Ryan will set it up, Ryan will make that call, Ryan will be there to help. I asked myself, "Who is this magical person named Ryan, and is he married?" ☺ I was single at the time but later found out that Ryan was not. My point is that in any conversation about Tech-related activities, events, programs, or happenings, Ryan had a hand in it.

I was hired in 2013, by President-elect Dr. Les Guice. Ryan joined our team the year later when Mr. Reggie Hanchey retired. Ryan came to this office and worked like no one I had ever seen work before! There was no question in my mind that Dr. Guice hired the right person for this position. Few people realize the relentless and immense efforts that are involved in coordinating events that include every area and unit of the University – not only the President's Office. Every detail, feature, aspect, and factor are recognized in every task Ryan is faced with. He does not only do it well, but goes far beyond his job description to make sure each and every person is treated with dignity, respect and courtesy. Ryan has Louisiana Tech deep within his heart and wants to provide everyone the ultimate Tech experience.

Ryan's immeasurable list of duties does not stop in the President's Office. He never neglects an opportunity to engage with faculty, staff, and students. Ryan also works with families by assuring them of Louisiana Tech's sincere passion and best interest for their children. Ryan goes far above and beyond in identifying ways to connect the President's schedule of meetings and activities to all areas of campus as well as the community.

It doesn't matter if it's a basketball game that Ryan is attending, touring the Grand Canyon or having dinner in a restaurant in Baton Rouge – Ryan will make sure Louisiana Tech University is recognized!

Working in Dr. Guice's office has been by far the best occupational experience I have had. Our team is what makes this position and this office so amazing. Ryan is the definition of team player and it shows every day that he is breathing. Ryan is never "off-the-clock" because to him it's not a job, Louisiana Tech is a way of life. If there is a need – Ryan will meet it. If there is an opportunity - Ryan will seize it. He truly lives and embraces the Tenants of Tech. His loyalty and love for the University, its people, and all that it stands for are unquestioned. I am certain there is no finer candidate for this exceptional honor. I proudly submit my recommendation of Ryan Richard for the 2018 Louisiana Tech University Loyalty Award.

Sincerely,



Carrie M. Flournoy
Executive Assistant to the President,
Title IX and Compliance Coordinator

April 24, 2018

Re: Loyalty Award recommendation for the Faculty Senate

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a recommendation for Ryan Richard from the perspective of a student who has worked extensively with Mr. Richard over the past year. I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Richard for the award because of his efforts in working with SGA and other organizations that come in contact with the Office of the President. His tireless work in making sure that the events on this campus run smoothly exemplifies "Loyalty" in every sense of the word.

As Student Government President, I frequently am in contact with the Office of the President. During my time coordinating Homecoming, Who's Who, Big Event, and more, Mr. Richard has always been willing to help Student Government fulfill our needs. Whether it is coordinating facilities, logistics, or speaking points for a program, he has always been the go-to person on campus because of his extensive knowledge of our University.

What sets Mr. Richard apart is meticulousness when it comes to planning. Mr. Richard thinks of everything that could potentially come up in an event, and events on campus are always flawless because of his work. While the Universities of Louisiana System Board had our retreat on campus in January, all of the board members made it a point to acknowledge Mr. Richard for his work in coordinating the weekend. He had sent detailed schedules, maps, and agendas before our retreat and board meeting that left an incredibly positive impression on all of the board members and university presidents that attended. Mr. Richard also personally coordinated ULS Day for Tech, and helped bring two buses of students to the Capitol and back. He left a great impression on not only the ULS office that day, but also on the dozens of legislators that interacted with our students.

Mr. Richard's loyalty to the University is unquestionable, and his willingness to help student organizations like mine is the same. He works tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that every event on this campus runs smoothly, often without praise, and I cannot think of anyone with whom I've worked that more fully exemplifies the tenet of "Loyalty". I fully endorse him for this award on behalf of the students. If the committee needs any more explanation, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to the rest of my executive council.

Best,
Benjamin Rice
(318) 402-7572



DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES
& ACADEMIC SUPPORT

April 25, 2018

Selection Committee:

I take great pleasure in the opportunity to recommend Mr. Ryan Richard for the Louisiana Tech Loyalty Award. Mr. Richard's strong work ethic, which is evident to all who know him, as well as his years of experience as an employee, and unparalleled passion for Louisiana Tech makes him a great choice for this award.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Richard for many years. I have had the opportunity work with him professionally through his involvement with Admissions, University Advancement, and now in Special Programs but also on various projects. Mr. Richard's professionalism and experience are to be commended. I have personally witnessed his innovation, problem solving and genuine concern for the institution. I have also had the opportunity to watch him interact with students at various events. Mr. Richard's compassion and concern for student success is admirable, as well as essential for a career in higher education.

It is without question, Mr. Richard is deserving of this award. Mr. Richard is most certainly a wonderful representative of our University and one of the most loyal employees I have encountered in my tenure. I recommend Ryan Richard for the Loyalty Award without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can further assist this process (stacyc@latech.edu/318.257.4730).

Sincerely,

Stacy C. Gilbert

Dean of Student Services & Academic Support