



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

April 23, 2019

To the Members of the Senate,

What an honor to be nominated for the 2019 Student Outreach Award. I am very humbled that I have been nominated for such a prestigious award.

Having been employed with Louisiana Tech for almost 19 years, I have worked both in the School of Human Ecology as an Administrative Assistant and at the Louisiana Tech Bookstore as Assistant Textbook Buyer. Both of these positions have allowed me to work and come in contact with some wonderful faculty and staff as well as thousands of students. It is my hope that I have touched the life of one or more of these people in the way they have touched mine. Each quarter, there are new students in which I get the pleasure of working with. These students come from many backgrounds and walks of life. I feel it is my job to make their experience here at Louisiana Tech one of the most memorable ever. Some of these students have never been away from their home environment or are from a small high school, and it is difficult for them to adjust. I want to be that kind voice, letting them know it will be ok and if they need any assistance, I will help or will find someone who can. I try to help all students whether that be taking the time to show them where their class is, evaluating transcripts, maintaining their student folders, printing documents, or just being one that is willing to help with their needs. I have had students call me their Tech mom which I do not mind being called at all. I have bandaged wounds, fed them, and given motherly advice when needed. I do none of this to be praised. I love people and the enjoyment I get from helping others is such a great reward in itself.

At a very young age, I was taught if you are going to do a job, do it to the best of your ability. You may fail from time to time, but you always do your best. I look at my position as an immediate reflection of myself. The director, faculty, and students know that if they need me, that I am dependable and will help in any way possible. I get to work early, and if need be stay late in order to complete any task given. I am honored to be a 2 time recipient of the College of Applied and Natural Sciences' Debra L. Martin Award for outstanding staff service. This award recognizes exceptional contributions for providing a positive environment for students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you so much for considering my nomination for the 2019 Student Outreach Award. Again, it is an honor in which I am very appreciative of being nominated for.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Renee S. Boyte

Administrative Assistant, School of Human Ecology

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

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LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY

4/17/19

Dear Louisiana Tech University Senate,

I feel honored to write a letter of support for Renee Boyte for the Louisiana Tech University 2019 Student Outreach Award. I highly recommend Renee for this exceptional award.

I have known Renee and worked with her in different capacities at the University for over 17 years. While I was the textbook manager at the Louisiana Tech Bookstore, Renee was the textbook assistant manager. I had the opportunity to observe her daily as she interacted with University students. Even though we both now work in different areas at the University, I am fortunate to still occasionally interact with Renee over working matters. I have always found that Renee performs beyond expectations with the utmost respect and leadership as she reaches out to students with enthusiasm to assist and improve services for the Louisiana Tech students.

Renee is one of the most kind, compassionate, caring individuals that I have ever known. Her actions certainly improve the quality of student life for Renee goes above and beyond to assist students. She truly cares by taking time to spend with each student, letting the student know she is there for them and leaves them knowing she is very approachable. It seems to come natural to her to have a gift of delivering exceptional care making students feel welcome. Renee takes her time to understand students' needs and encourages students. I feel that any University student that has the opportunity to communicate with Renee is fortunate for she will work towards building a strong bond as she strives to assist students in their needs. Renee truly shows that she is committed to fulfilling the needs of students, faculty and staff at Louisiana Tech University.

I gladly recommend Renee Boyte be selected as this year's recipient of the 2019 Student Outreach Award. Renee is very deserving of this honor.

Sincerely,

Ann White

Louisiana Tech University

Property Control Manager



LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

April 18, 2019

To the Members of the Senate,

It is my honor and privilege to write this letter of support for Mrs. Renee Boyte, nominee for the 2019 Student Outreach Award. *Through her 19 years of employment at Louisiana Tech University, Renee has continuously and consistently delivered quality service, created a welcoming environment, built strong connections and met the needs of all Louisiana Tech University students in several capacities.* It truly is as if this award were create to honor all that Renee does on a daily basis to create the Tech Family feeling for our every one of our students: past, present, and prospective. I have worked with Renee in the School of Human Ecology for 7 years, and it is from this perspective that I write this letter of support.

A perfect example of Renee's ability to create a welcoming environment and build strong connections occurred just yesterday. Renee created a homemade meal to feed our student workers for Student Worker Appreciation week. There are 25 student workers in our department, and yesterday *Renee made each one feel nurtured and valued.*

Renee has a talent for welcoming not only prospective students but also internal transfers to our department. Just last week alone, I received an email from a mother whose daughter is interested in coming to Tech. She explain to me how helpful Renee had been to her and how *impressed she was by Renee's personal touch.* Two weeks ago, I received a call from a grandmother who was looking for support for her grandson. The grandmother explained to me that she had called all over campus looking for help and *finally felt someone (Renee) cared.* This week, I had a student who transferred to Human Ecology from another department on campus; she told me that after talking with "*Mrs. Renee,*" she knew she had found her Tech home. I am only one faculty member here, and these are just a few recent stories about Renee that have filtered down to me; therefore, I know this is the way Renee treats all students, mother, fathers, and grandmothers. *She interacts with students and their families with respect, warmth, and a welcoming Tech Family attitude.*

Once students become a part of the School of Human Ecology, Renee continues to let them know they are welcomed and valued. *She works tirelessly to make sure that students receive credit for their transfer courses, have accurate files, and are on-track for graduation.* For example, she begins to audit student files two quarters before their anticipated graduation to ensure that there are no unexpected complications (or disappointed students and families). *Students have confidence in Renee's work and in her oversight of their academic progression.*

Renee treats all students equally and with respect. The most poignant example of this fact is that one of our faculty members is the faculty sponsor for PRISM, the LGBTQ student organization. Renee makes note of the pronouns by which student members wish to be referred so that if a student comes by looking for the faculty sponsor, Renee will refer to the student appropriately. This sign of respect is most meaningful because it occurs outside of the student's awareness and beyond Renee's personal experiences. ***In other words, Renee's welcoming attitude is genuine, and this authenticity is what makes her stand out to students, parents, and faculty.***

Finally, as I was writing this letter, I decided to go to our student computer lab and ***ask students their impressions of Mrs. Renee.*** This was a Thursday afternoon, right before the holiday break, and there were five students working on assignments. Here are the quotes I recorded from these five random Human Ecology students:

"No matter what it is, she offers to help immediately. She doesn't try to pass it off on someone else. She just helps you in any way she can. And she doesn't seem to be put off by it."

"She is so quick to respond to you. If I send her an email or call, she gets back to me with an answer super-fast. It's amazing."

"She's always available to help."

"She's always so nice and polite to students. She never acts rude to us."

"You can always count on her. She always has a Scantron, too!"

"As an office worker, I see her interact with students all the time, and she treats everyone the same helpful way."

This student quote seems to sum it all up:

"She's willing to do whatever it takes to help a student, whether it's her job or not."

As that final student quote indicates, Mrs. Renee Boyte is the ideal recipient for the 2019 Student Outreach Award. Louisiana Tech University is a special place for students because of special staff like Renee Boyte, ***who genuinely respects students, has their best interests as her top priority, and is willing to do "whatever it takes" to help them.*** The Tech Family is fortunate to have Renee Boyte as one of its members for 19 years. ***I encourage you to show Renee just how much we appreciate all 19 years of her outstanding service to students, their families, faculty, and staff by presenting her the 2019 Student Outreach Award.***

Respectfully,

Amy Yates

Amy M. Yates, PhD, LMFT, CFLE
Sue Woodard Endowed Professorship



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF APPLIED AND NATURAL SCIENCES

April 17, 2019

University Senate - Louisiana Tech University

Re: Nomination of Ms. Renee Boyte for the 2019 Student Outreach Award (Classified)

Dear Student Outreach Award (Classified) Selection Committee:

This letter is in support of Ms. Renee Boyte's nomination for the 2019 Student Outreach Award (Classified). Ms. Boyte is an Administrative Assistant 3 in the School of Human Ecology, which is in the College of Applied and Natural Sciences. Considering that this award is aimed at a staff member who has improved the lives of students and who has carried out the duties of their job with the Tech Tenets of Respect and Leadership, Ms. Boyte is indeed an excellent candidate for consideration of this award.

The Student Outreach Award (Classified) focuses on recognizing staff who go beyond the typical job requirements of supporting students. Ms. Boyte has a reputation for providing a welcoming and encouraging environment for the students in the School of Human Ecology. She is focused on assisting with the student's academic and career success, no matter if a student is an incoming freshman or a student transferring into or out of the School of Human Ecology.

In addition, she is committed to supporting the director of the school, faculty, and other staff members within the school with respect to supporting the needs of students. This is evidenced by Ms. Boyte being awarded the College of Applied and Natural Sciences' Debra L. Martin Award for Outstanding Service for the academic year 2015-16 and then again in 2017-18. The purpose of this award is to recognize exceptional contributions for providing a positive environment for students, faculty, and staff within an academic unit. Ms. Boyte was nominated for this award by faculty and staff within the School of Human Ecology and was selected for this award by the College of Applied and Natural Sciences' Advisory Council to the Dean, which represents the five academic units within the college. Winning this award two times in three years is unprecedented and speaks volumes regarding the exemplary service that Ms. Boyte provides to the students, faculty and staff within the School of Human Ecology.

Given the selection criteria for the Student Outreach Award (Classified), Ms. Boyte is truly deserving of being selected. Thank you so much for your time and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Kennedy, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Applied and Natural Sciences

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