



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY®

ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

Dear University Senate Members,

Although many say I have never had a loss for words, that theory was proven untrue when I received the nomination for the 2020 Student Outreach Award for Unclassified Staff. I was truly speechless. With overwhelming emotion I must say I am most certainly honored to be considered with so many other deserving candidates.

From the time I was born my life has revolved around education. In fact, my first stop home from the hospital was at the school in which my mom taught. When your mother is a teacher, the majority of your childhood is spent on a school campus. My days began two hours before my friends arrived and ended several hours after the final bell. My mom, a Louisiana Tech alumni and educator of 40 plus years, is a true testament of someone who chose the right profession. Her passion for teaching is rare, but the difference she makes in young people's lives is unparalleled. Despite not wanting to take the teaching route like my mom, I passionately crave the opportunity to make even the slightest difference in someone's life.

I began my professional career in banking where I was told by a lady in the human resources department that my personality was better suited elsewhere. Although that served as quite a shock initially to my young professional life—she was right.

Historically across college campuses an admissions recruiter is someone with somewhat of a cowboy soul. They breeze into town for a brief moment and typically leave out as quickly as they came. When accepting a recruiting position almost 6 years ago that was going to be me. My plan was to do a job and do it well, but simply use Louisiana Tech as a stepping stone to something bigger and better after a couple years. Yet after each recruiting season, I kept coming back.

Recruiting has always come naturally to me. Being able to have a conversation with potential Bulldogs and their families is where I thrive. The lady from Human Resources was right on the money—my personality was better suited outside of a cubicle. I was meant to have interaction, conversation, and the ability to entertain others. Being in the Louisiana Tech office of Admissions, I am able to be myself. My roles have transitioned over the years from admissions recruiter, to senior recruiter & special events coordinator, to the first ever CAMPUS EXPERIENCE COORDINATOR. The reoccurring theme that lies within all the positions I have held at Louisiana Tech and amongst the one I currently have is the ability to make a difference.

“Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person.” Over the years I have gotten countless “thank yous” in the form of notes, flowers, cupcakes, and other unique items from families. They always are received in surprise, because in my mind I am just doing what I was meant to do—help people. I have learned through this job that sometimes what I view as such a small interaction with a student makes one of the largest impacts.

As the Campus Experience Coordinator, I interpret my role as being the person in charge of making Louisiana Tech the second most magical place on earth—Disney beware. My whole day consists of people. However, it's not just the potential bulldogs that I interact with on their campus visits or on the phone that I get to share Tech with that resonates with me the most. It is having the opportunity to serve as the advisor for the Student Recruiters, Order of Omega, and over the front admission student workers that matters immensely to me.



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY


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I compare my daily experiences with the students of Louisiana Tech with one of my favorite scenes from the movie, *The Blind Side*. If you are unfamiliar with the movie, an affluent family took in a homeless minority student that would later become an outstanding athlete. At a fancy country club luncheon, Leigh Anne Touhy, who was portrayed by Sandra Bullock, has a friend tell her “You’re changing that boy’s life.” It is then that Sandra Bullock’s character quickly responds with “No, he is changing mine.”

These students reference to me as their fearless leader. They look to me for the answers to all of their problems. They confide in me. They truly believe I have it all figured it—which couldn’t be further from the truth. What these students don’t realize is they really have changed my life. They make me want to be a better person, leader, and friend. My mom planted the seed early in me to want to be the example a child might not have at home. I hope the precedent that I set for these students is one that makes them better—better humans, better friends, and better employees.

As expressed earlier, I am extremely honored to have been selected as a potential recipient of the 2020 Student Outreach Award. To the person who nominated me, I am forever grateful and to Louisiana Tech University, I will forever loyal be.

Emily M. Poole


Campus Experience Coordinator



LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND FORESTRY

To Whom It May Concern;

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Emily Poole. I have known Emily for approximately eight years. During that time, Emily has always demonstrated a Love of Louisiana Tech and a concern for others whether it was students, faculty or staff. She is well deserving of the award for Student Outreach.

Emily is a great asset to not only incoming students but also current students. I know what when I have a visitor that has come through Emily's office on his or her campus visit, that we have a great chance of getting a new incoming freshman. They always speak very complementary about her and they are always excited to become a Bulldog after meeting with her. She is always excited to help out when I have a current student or an incoming student that needs assistance. She is always quick to volunteer to help them.

When I look at the requirements for this award, I see Emily Poole written all over them. She is Ever Loyal Be, she does not run around talking how great Louisiana Tech is from 8 to 5 and then supporting other universities, she is 100% Louisiana Tech. Emily is one of the most respectful people that I know. She treats everyone with respect, she will go out of her way to make someone feel welcome and a part of the group or program. She does a great job of developing and operating events such as Time Out for Tech, on campus visits for prospective students and an on campus event for high school counselors. I have worked with her on these events and you will find that Emily is slow to take credit for the success and the first to accept blame for any problem that arises. People that can effectively work as a team member or leader are rare. Emily is one of those rare people, she leads by example, works well with others and in the end, helps everyone around her succeed. Whether it is working with students, faculty or staff, Emily embodies the Spirit of Tech.

In short, I highly recommend that you award this great honor to Emily Poole. Emily considers her job to make Louisiana Tech a better place for all students. She will work hard to help students find their niche and make sure that they leave Louisiana Tech University as a better person having achieved their goals. I am proud to know Emily and proud to have her as a coworker. She makes all of us better. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Murphey, PhD., Associate Professor and Academic Program Chair Agricultural Sciences. Holder of the Agricultural Sciences Endowed Professorship

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY



LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & SCIENCE

May 1, 2020

Dear Award Committee,

It is my honor to recommend Emily Poole for the Student Outreach Award. I have interacted with Emily for many years at Tech. When I first met Emily, it was very obvious that she was someone that you wouldn't forget. For anyone that has met Emily, you know exactly what I mean. She was a recruiter in admissions who had more energy than most programs have combined together.

She has a way of being able to communicate with recruits and their families that seems to break down any barriers or concerns that they have. I have seen her on many occasions be able to get a student to "break out of their shell" and feel comfortable. This has allowed them to open up and start to ask questions.

I believe that another strength that Emily has is knowing when and who to connect recruits with. By using her ability to break down those barriers, she is able to determine what the student really needs to hear or who they need to meet with. Emily has great connections throughout the university, so she is able to make a call or send an email and quickly get the student in touch with the right person.

Her enthusiasm is what makes Emily even more noticeable. She will meet with families, and use her southern accent along with her enthusiasm just help them to get excited about coming to Tech. In my role, I have the opportunity to meet with many students. I have seen and heard from them about how they have loved their interaction with her. She is one of those people that make your trip memorable, and this plays a major factor in them deciding to come to Tech.

Emily brings an energy that is hard to match when recruiting. She is focused on the visitors that come to our campus because she truly cares about them. She wants to see each one of them become a part of the bulldog family. When it comes to student outreach, she is definitely out front. I believe she would be a great choice for this award. If you have any further questions with regard to his background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Heath Tims, PhD
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, COES
Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering

May 1, 2020

To the Members of the University Senate Staff Subcommittee:

It is my sincerest honor to speak on behalf of Ms. Emily Poole regarding her nomination for the 2020 Student Outreach Award. Emily Poole is most fondly known as “Poole” or “Poole Party” to all those who have the pleasure of interacting with her. I have known Poole for six years, so I genuinely believe that I am uniquely fit to speak to why Poole is not only a good candidate for this award, but the best candidate.

In all the years I have known Poole, I have had the pleasure to call her an employee, a friend, and a confidant. She has an unbridled passion that she carries with her in all aspects of her life. It is this passion combined with her kindness and humor that make her magnetic. She draws people in and makes them feel comfortable and safe in her presence. Anyone who spends even a small amount of time with Poole can see that this is clear before students and families even step on campus and continues well after a student has enrolled at Louisiana Tech University.

In consideration of position roles, so many staff members work with students either before they have begun at Louisiana Tech or during their four years here. Poole is one of a select few who bridges the gap between the two worlds and does so seamlessly. She builds lasting relationship with parents and students that last through a student’s college career. One senior speaks specifically to this ideology. Jacoby Clark says:

“As a high school senior, many of our parents, teachers, and counselors force us to go to events to help us in our college search. This includes seminars, recruiter meetings that come to our schools, and the ever-so-overwhelming college fairs. However, one particular college fair is where I would meet a woman that would change my life.

She stood there at the Tech-ed out table, her big blonde hair her even bigger smile with red lipstick that lit up the room. She invited me over to talk about Louisiana Tech, a school I had never heard of while in Little Rock, AR. She gave me all these amazing benefits like small class sizes, Air Force ROTC, and a Computer Science degree (both of which is what I was interested in at the time). I was so enchanted by this school and what it had to offer, Poole offered me to take a visit in that famous Southern accent.

I convinced my parents to wake up at 5:00 for that three-hour drive down to Ruston, LA, where I would take a tour of my future home. Bright and early at 8:30 AM, there she was, standing there among all the other students and parents who came to tour. She gave her spiel and right before I was sent out, she told me that I would be meeting with her afterwards to give me the admissions talk. I don't remember much of that tour now since my memories I've had in the buildings take precedence of what a tour guide told me, but I do remember much of how the university made me feel. I got this warm and fuzzy feeling knowing that I would become a future bulldog. At the end of the tour, Emily takes me back to her office, and my parents and I sit and talk with her. She was still just as charming as the day I met her. At this point, I'm fully convinced that I'm coming to Tech, though my parents don't know that yet. They won't find out until that three-hour drive back home.

About a week later, I get this handwritten thank you card from Louisiana Tech. It was from my new friend, Poole. She wanted to thank me for visiting with her. Looking back now as a senior, I realized that I'm the one that should have thanked her. Thanked her for giving me the opportunity to meet my best friends in the entire world.

Thanked her for molding me into a leader as an executive member of an organization. Thanked her for being a guide for my early 20s. But there's no way I would have known that. So I thank Poole now. As one of the most important and hardest-working faculty on Louisiana Tech's campus, I believe that she is the most deserving for this award. If anything happens on this campus, Poole is going to be involved in some way, shape, or form, and that event will exceed expectations. Poole has influenced several students, like me, who embody the true spirit of Louisiana Tech and what it means to be a bulldog."

Mr. Clark's testimony is just one of many examples of Poole's exemplary leadership and commitment to every student with whom she interacts. As concerns of COVID-19 became even more prevalent, I watched each day as Poole set aside her own concerns and sat patiently while listening to the many students working with her express their fears and discomfort with everything occurring. As well as returning hundreds of phone calls to concern prospective students and parents. Poole, having no more answers than the next person during complete uncertainty, spoke to all of her students with understanding and calmness. Even when she couldn't offer any specific clarity, her ability to ease their apprehension even for a moment was awe-inspiring. This award recognizes individuals who help students acclimate to student life. Poole has gone above and beyond as she's done what she can to help these same students acclimate to a new normal as the world rewrites life in quarantine.

Poole's commitment is unwavering. She continually pushes herself and those around her to excel. No matter what she is doing, she will stop and listen and do it with a "big Tech smile!" For the girl from the "real L.A., lower Arkansas that is" I have no doubt in my mind that Ms. Emily Poole is your right choice for the Student Outreach Award.

If you have any further questions or if I can clarify anything for you, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Thank you,

Megan C Fair

Megan Fair
Senior Associate Director of Admissions