

April 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My journey at Louisiana Tech began when I was a junior in high school, and my cheerleading team traveled to Ruston and stayed on the 7th floor of Neilson Hall for cheer camp. Our days were exhausting, but I remember looking around at how beautiful the campus was, and how friendly everyone was. I had such a memorable experience, that my senior year in high school I petitioned for us to go back to Louisiana Tech for camp. After that I knew Louisiana Tech was where I wanted to attend college. I tried out for Tech's Cheer team and made the varsity squad my freshmen year. So many fond memories cheering on the sidelines of the "Joe", on the court for the Lady Techsters, flying with the football team to away games, or the many friends I still have to this day. My sophomore year I met my future husband, who was my cheer partner at the time!

I began working for the Department of Residential Life as a student worker in Room Assignments in the Spring of 2002, and then as a Graduate Assistant in the same area. In November 2007 I was hired as a Coordinator of Student Development. My job was to oversee several residence halls, plan programs, meet with students about roommate conflicts. I was also tasked with handling disciplinary actions, as well as be a sounding board for the students on campus. I enjoyed this job because I got to help students transition from living at home with their parents to becoming responsible adults who were able to problem solve. After being a Coordinate of Student Development for a few years, I was transitioned back to Coordinator of Room Assignments. This position I feel is a better fit for me, because I have a very meticulous, organized, and a detail orientated personality. I manage the assigning of 2500 bed spaces we have on campus, and the intricate details that go along with that responsibility. I enjoy being able to help find students the perfect room or roommate to make their college experience memorable and as comfortable as possible.

In 2008 my husband and I moved on campus to live in the apartment in Harper Hall, which was a benefit of my job. Later that year we welcomed a baby girl, and 3 years later we welcomed another sweet girl. While I was pregnant with both girls, I was extremely sick and was unable to get out of bed most days. I never let that interfere with the duties of my job. I asked for work that I could do at home to make sure my job did not suffer.

In July 2014 I was promoted to Assistant Director of Residential Life, where I believe I have thrived and helped to implement many policies to enhance my department.

In August of 2014 I was approached by Mr. Sam Speed and the former Tech Cheer sponsor, Ms. Candee Anderson. They asked if I would be willing to add an additional responsibility to my already full plate. They requested I become the Spirit Groups Advisor and asked if my husband and I would be willing to coach the cheerleaders. Having such wonderful memories, it was an

easy decision for us and we were excited to be able to give back to a program that helped grow us into the adults we are now.

As a young high school student I felt drawn to Louisiana Tech. After working at Tech in some capacity for almost 18 years, I can definitely say that I have a deep connection as well as a love for the university. I am extremely proud of my Alma Mater, and I recruit anytime I have the chance. My family and I have been blessed to call Louisiana Tech our home, and I cannot wait until my children become Bulldogs one day! I am Ever Loyal Be!

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am truly honored to be nominated for this award.

Sincerely,

Emily Spoon
Assistant Director of Residential Life
Spirit Groups Advisor / Cheer Coach



LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY.

**Office of the Associate Vice President
for Student Advancement**

April 24, 2020

University Senate
Louisiana Tech University
Ruston, LA 71272

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing in support of Emily Spoon's nomination for the 2020 University Senate Loyalty Award.

I have counted Emily as a colleague and friend at Louisiana Tech for the past 17 years. As an undergraduate, graduate student, and full-time staff member, she has dedicated her entire professional career to this university and to the Department of Residential Life. As Assistant Director, Emily plays a significant role in helping 2,500 students feel at home on this campus, and many times those responsibilities extend well beyond the traditional 8-5 workday. She exemplifies the kindness, caring, and commitment that Louisiana Tech expects of its staff.

In addition, she has taken on the coaching and mentoring of the Louisiana Tech Cheerleaders, a program personally near and dear to her heart. This is truly a labor of love and has provided Emily an opportunity to involve her entire family. Without a doubt, there are two little girls who will follow in her footsteps as future Louisiana Tech graduates.

For these reasons and more, I enthusiastically recommend Ms. Spoon for this award. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (318) 257-2445 or at ajantz@latech.edu.

Sincerely,

Annie A. Jantz
Coordinator of Special Programs &
Assistant to the Vice President for Student Advancement

April 21, 2020

To the committee for the University Senate Loyalty Award:

Please accept this letter of support for **Emily J. Spoon**, and her nomination for the University Senate Loyalty Award. I have known Emily now for over 15 years in which I first met her during her undergraduate days at Louisiana Tech. She became my student worker shortly after that time, was promoted to Graduate Assistant and then hired as Coordinator of Assignments in Residential Life. She became a part of my family from the day I met her.

Emily has a work ethic that has always been extremely solid. She pays incredible detail to taking care of any task and embodies those principles of what we expect each student to display upon graduation. If I had to pick a few of the Tenets of Tech to best describe Emily, I would start with Loyalty followed closely by Caring and Pride. She was a Tech cheerleader when she started working for Residential Life and met her husband, Ray, during this time. I'm quite certain that Tech cheer has been a part of her life ever since!

Loyalty for Emily is exemplified in every aspect of her life. She was always loyal to her job, family, faith, and activities. Emily never does anything "half—way". She does everything to the fullness and attention that it deserves. Her personality is very indicative of a behind the scenes persona. There are so many examples of success stories at Tech that simply would not be if it weren't for Emily. She makes things happen and never wants any of the attention for herself.

Caring is what Emily does best. She loves big and she cares! Students that have many times been at the end of their rope with roommates or have found themselves desperate for help, Emily has been able to come through for them and make situations disappear. She has been able to walk students (and parents) through difficult processes and get to resolutions.

Pride...I mean one would be hard pressed to find someone who displays more pride for Louisiana Tech than Emily Spoon! She has literally been on the sidelines for years! You won't find her in any color other than red and blue because she lives it! At work and during her life away from the office, Emily is still committed to building relationships with young people in a residential arena and through her role in spirit groups. Her love for both of those things is something that she share with her family and includes them in every day of her life.

It is a blessing to write a letter of support for Emily and the Loyalty Award. I am thrilled with her nomination and would welcome the opportunity to share any additional details with you all as you continue with the selection process. I truly believe that Emily would be a fantastic recipient of this honor.

Kindest Regards-

Melanie B. Peel
Director of Students in Transition
Student Affairs



LOUISIANA TECH
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND
UNDERGRADUATE RECRUITMENT

April 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for a person who I have had the pleasure of knowing not only as a student but I have also been able to watch her grow as a young professional. Emily Spoon has provided extraordinary service on behalf of Louisiana Tech University and our students. As the Dean of Student Engagement and Undergraduate Recruitment, I have observed her as a very capable and committed employee of Louisiana Tech University.

My work with Mrs. Spoon includes working with her in her positions as the Assistant Director of Residential Life and as one of the coaches of the Louisiana Tech Cheer team. I am impressed with her work not only by my own observations but also the unsolicited show of approval coming from students, parents and stakeholders who work with her and have communicated this directly to me. In her role, in order to do the job at this level requires not only a special personality but also an undying care, concern and commitment to excellence that she shows towards the students she serves. The primary area of undying pledge that she makes day in and day out is an absolute benefit to Louisiana Tech University. Mrs. Spoon follows our Division of Student Affairs motto of being kind, caring and committed on a daily basis.

If you have any questions concerning my recommendation, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (318) 257-2445. Thank you for your time in considering Mrs. Spoon for this recognition. I believe she is very deserving and I give her my full endorsement.

Sincerely,

Samuel L. Speed
Dean of Student Engagement
& Undergraduate Recruitment

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

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