

To the Senate Awards Subcommittee:

I was hired full time November 29, 2017 in the Louisiana Tech Career Center as the Coordinator of Employer Relations & Career Center events. Previously I was a departmental student assistant for Counseling & Career Services beginning Fall Quarter 2013 until my undergraduate graduation in Fall 2017.

I have since worked with countless students, employers, and faculty members here at Louisiana Tech. Three of my favorite student services are: Dining Etiquette Dinners, being an instructor for an Honors Computer Science section of FYE, and being a member of the COVID Student Response Team.

Towards the end of my first full year at Louisiana Tech I was tasked with revitalizing and revamping an old service offered by the Career Center. About a decade ago the Career Center offered small, intimate dinners in the Ropp designed for students and their organizations to practice the etiquette that goes with a **professional dining experience**. I now coordinate this 3 times a year in collaboration with multiple partners across campus. It is very rewarding for me to attend and observe students ask questions and experience a 5 course meal. This event has a very light atmosphere designed for them to have fun, make mistakes, and ask questions. Each quarter I take student feedback to add more of what they like and less of what they don't to offer the best experience we can. Many of the students that attend then stay in touch and I get to know them more than just a face. These students come in for resume assistance, help with job search, and sometimes just to chat. It is my goal in the future to offer this twice each quarter and to have it fully funded by a corporate sponsor.

I have taught Honors **FYE** for 2 quarters now and was previously a Blue Fire Mentor for Dr. Heath Tims and Dean Stacy Gilbert. I am still in touch with many students from my 2019 and 2020 sections. I create a group message each year that I encourage them to reach out through year-round if they have any questions. This helps them feel they always have someone at Tech they can ask questions but also keeps them in touch with other students. My goal is to continue teaching the honors section of FYE and watch the freshmen in my classes grow during their time at Tech.

The **COVID Student Response Team** was nothing like I expected it to be. This was almost a fulltime responsibility itself. I worked with countless students coordinating their meal delivery if they were on campus, quarantining or isolating in their on campus housing or moving to an isolated location elsewhere, communicating with professors and verifying absences, ensuring students had the books and materials they needed to keep up, ensuring students had laptops and/or webcams to attend virtually, pointing students to resources on campus and in the community as needed, and staying in communication with students during a confusing and lonely time. I also created digital materials to help my fellow SRT members on campus. These included fillable scripts to gather student information, pdf forms to send, and a

question/answer flow chart to help with student timelines and whether they needed to quarantine or isolate. These are attached.

This involved after hours phone calls, texts on weekends, emails throughout the day and socially distant trips to dorms to drop off materials. For some cases it was initial call, fill out the paperwork, then "see you in two weeks." For many others though there was constant contact. My office phone was forwarded to my cell at all times, the university supplied a virtual number for students to text us, emails I sent as well as many I was copied onto as a liaison in communication with professors, and Zoom calls were abundant in the two to three weeks I worked with each student. I got to know whole apartments or friend groups quarantining together or I got to talk to a student isolating alone who didn't have any other human conversation that day. This was a much more taxing responsibility than I originally anticipated when volunteering but it was also extremely rewarding. I am still occasionally in touch with some of these students today.

Something new that has been in the works for almost 3 years now is the **Louisiana Tech Career Closet**. This project was set to open Spring of 2020 but COVID among other obstacles delayed that. During the time completing this packet I learned and am happy to announce that our proposed SGA bill has passed. This was a pivotal win for us and our hopes to have a full opening in Fall 2021. Myself (Student Affairs-Career Services), Dr. Allie DeLeo-Allen (COES), Dr. Kathleen Heiden (CANS-Fashion Merchandising), and Jessica George (COB) are part of the interdepartmental team behind the Career Closet initiative. The goal of this project is to offer professional dress at no cost to students and little-to-no cost to the university. We have worked hard to make this a cross campus-collaborative effort so no one college feels ownership. We want students to know AND feel that this is open to all student regardless of major. The boutique setup will be housed in the Career Center in Keeny Hall. College of Engineering Students have created a beta version of our inventory system. Fashion Merchandising students have designed our store layout and will be key workers in the Closet while gaining real life experience in a store front setting. The College of Business has a student organization that will assist in the physical collection of donations from the bins on campus and in the community. We held a logo design contest encouraging students of all majors but especially Graphic Design and Marketing to submit ideas. We worked with University Communications to create a promotional video. A team of Marketing seniors are currently working on a promotion plan of the resource to students. The Alumni Foundation has assisted us in creating a formal donation process. We even have ideas to incorporate other majors and departments into this project as it grows from our Health Sciences and Liberal Arts areas. There are also many other individual students, faculty, or staff who have offered ideas, encouraged us, donated clothing, or simply shown interest in the project that kept us motivated to see it through.

We have just broken the surface on all the plans we hope this initiative grows into. My goal along with the team is to grow the program, increase offerings, gained corporate partners,

gain community partners, increase awareness of the service to students in need, and so much more. We even hope to offer a paid internship in the marketing, supply chain, or fashion merchandising area in the near future for students working the Closet.

My time at Tech has been very rewarding and has created unforgettable memories. My everyday roles focus mainly on employer interactions. That being said I strive to find ways outside of those roles to interact with our students, get involved on campus, and have fun.

I thank you for your nomination and am truly honored. I hope the information and letter of support prove to you my qualifications as a candidate.

Sincerely,



Avery Broussard

Coordinator of Employer Relations and Career Center Events

Career Center, Keeny 337

Louisiana Tech University

P.O. Box 3153

Ruston, LA 71272

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personal line and voicemail: 318.257.2573

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website: http://www.latech.edu/career_center/



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Dean of Student Services and Academic Support

May 1, 2021

Selection Committee,

I take great pleasure in the opportunity to recommend Mr. Avery Broussard for the Louisiana Tech Student Outreach Award. Mr. Broussard's strong work ethic, which is evident to all who know him, as well as his passion for student outreach, makes him a great choice for this award.

I have the pleasure of watching Mr. Broussard in his role in Career Services, first hand. I often observe Mr. Broussard going out of his way to assist students in their professional pursuits. His ability to make students feel comfortable, meet them where they are and guide them to their career destination. Mr. Broussard's professionalism and innovation are to be commended. I have personally witnessed his innovation with technology and electronic delivery of information to current processes with which he has oversight. The virtual world took Career Services by storm and Mr. Broussard led the charge in an effort to assure services were available to graduating and soon-to-be graduating students. His compassion and concern for student success is admirable, as well as essential for a career in higher education.

Mr. Broussard also makes every effort to reach outside his work obligations to forge new relationships that will ultimately benefit the students he serves. He serves as a resource to areas such as Lambright Sports Complex, serves as an FYE 100 instructor (honors section), and has also recently served as a Student Resource Team member serving students in a pandemic.

It is without question; Mr. Broussard is deserving of this award. Mr. Broussard is most certainly a wonderful representative of our University. Again, it is a great honor to recommend Mr. Avery Broussard for this award and I recommend him without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can further assist this process (stacyc@latech.edu/318.257.2445).

Sincerely,

Stacy C. Gilbert
Dean of Student Services and Academic Support



JESSICA GEORGE
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES AND PLACEMENT
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

April 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Avery Broussard for the annual Senate Student Outreach Award.

When I think of Avery, he precisely lines up with the principles that our university stands upon - the principles of being kind, caring and committed. Throughout his time at Tech, Avery has been a driving force behind many student initiatives and has been instrumental in leading cross departmental collaboration. This includes his work co-founding the Career Closet, a professional dress resource for students, moderating and hosting a variety of career readiness events for all Colleges on campus, and establishing community service opportunities for students across campus.

In the face of COVID, Avery quickly and efficiently worked to transition all career services to an online format, including hosting a digital career fair through Handshake and seminars and employer information sessions through Zoom.

Avery carries out his role with great leadership, enthusiasm, and drive to impact the students at our university. It is for these reasons that I can wholeheartedly recommend him for this award. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jessica George
Director of Student Services and Placement
College of Business
Louisiana Tech University



Career Center

A Department of Student Affairs

May 4, 2021

Dear University Senate and Selection Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Avery Broussard as the recipient of the Student Outreach Award - Unclassified. Mr. Broussard is a vital part of Louisiana Tech University and a strong candidate for this award.

Mr. Broussard is a two-time graduate of Louisiana Tech University. During his years as a student, he was active and engaged with his peers forming bonds that would continue beyond college. After graduating, he continued to work for this University and joined the Career Center. He has many duties within the Career Center but takes the lead in the coordination of Career Day and other career-related events. He takes the initiative to work with students in preparing them for their professional roles including building their professional resumes and boosting their confidence in their interviewing skills. These events and interactions are the lifelines for our students to have the opportunity to become not only successful in their career, but to also become a proud extension of the University within their field.

In addition to his everyday activities, Mr. Broussard has chosen to be an instructor of First Year Experience multiple times and maintains professional relationships with his students beyond the classroom offering them encouragement, guidance, and resources. He makes sure that they are informed about activities and opportunities around campus and displays a genuine interest in their lives even during their chance encounters on campus—this I have witnessed on countless occasions.

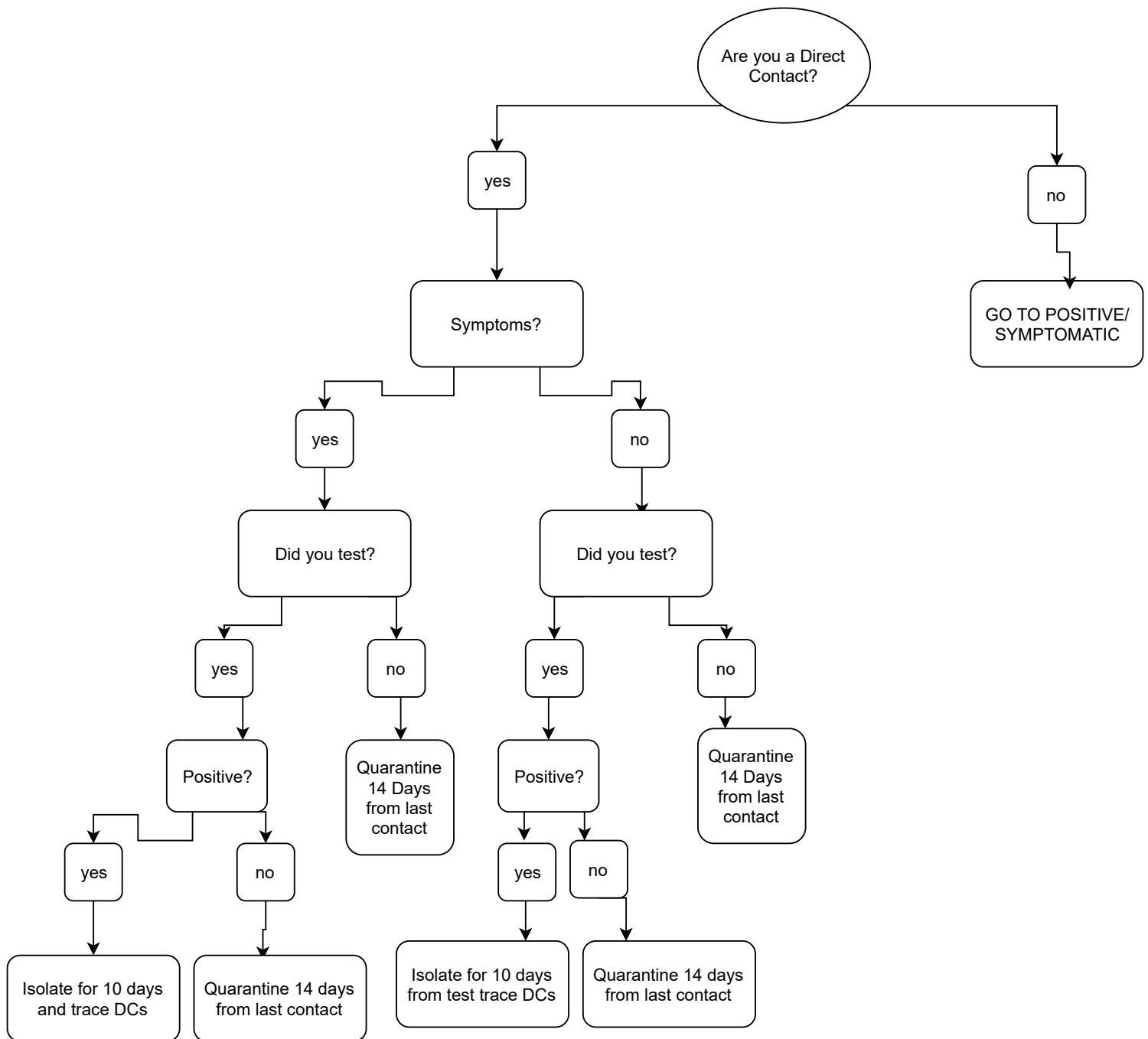
Lastly, Mr. Broussard has been an advocate for the creation of the Career Closet which is purposeful in providing easy access to professional attire for our students. It is undoubtedly his intention in all of these endeavors to reach our students for no personal gain but simply for their betterment and success.

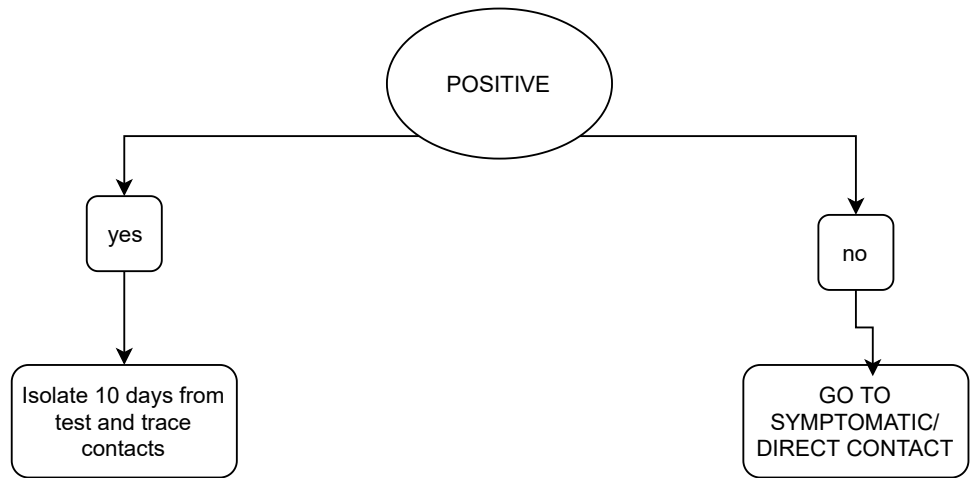
It is because of all that has been mentioned here that I unreservedly recommend Mr. Broussard for the Student Outreach Award - Unclassified. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or need further elaboration.

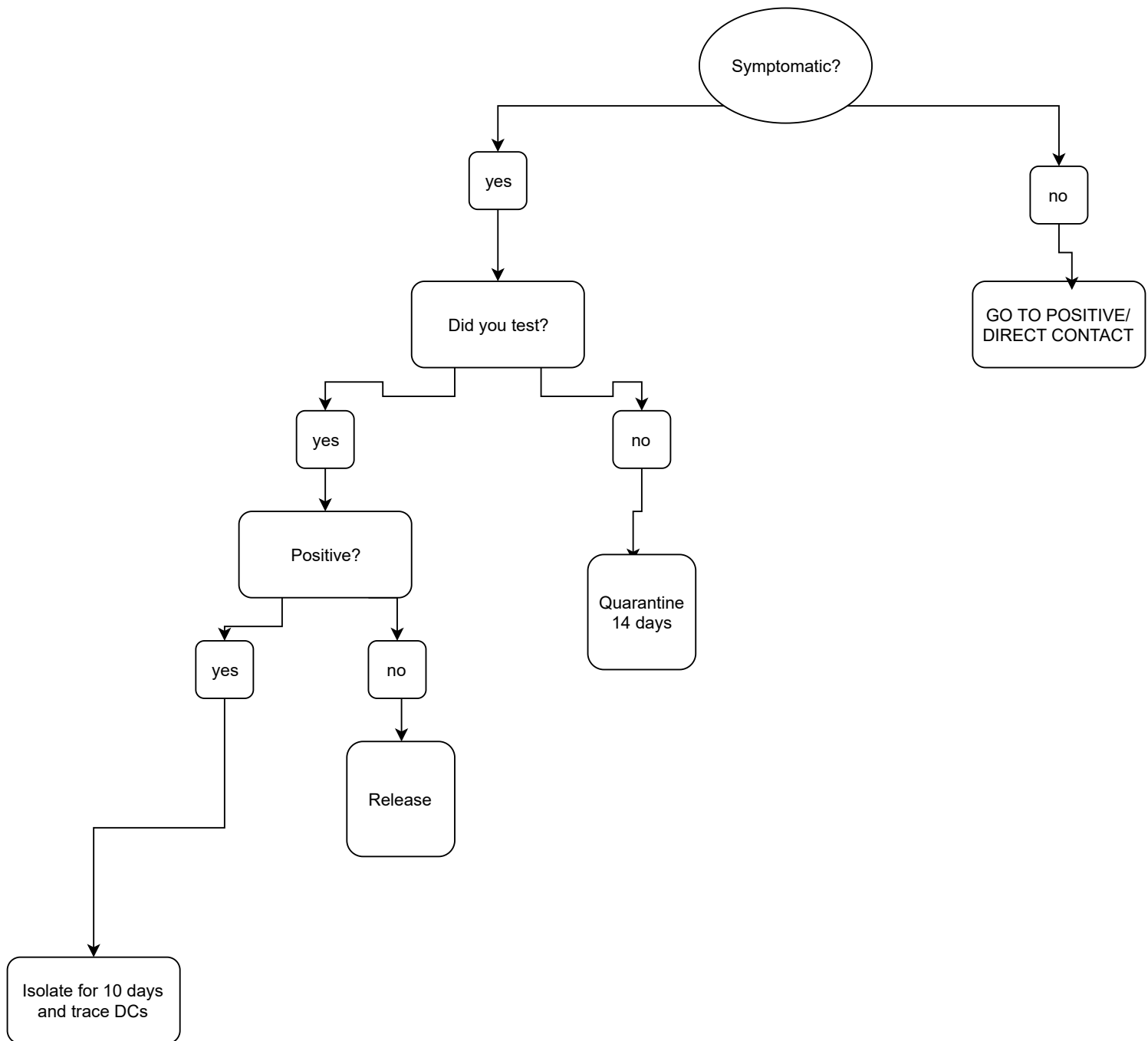
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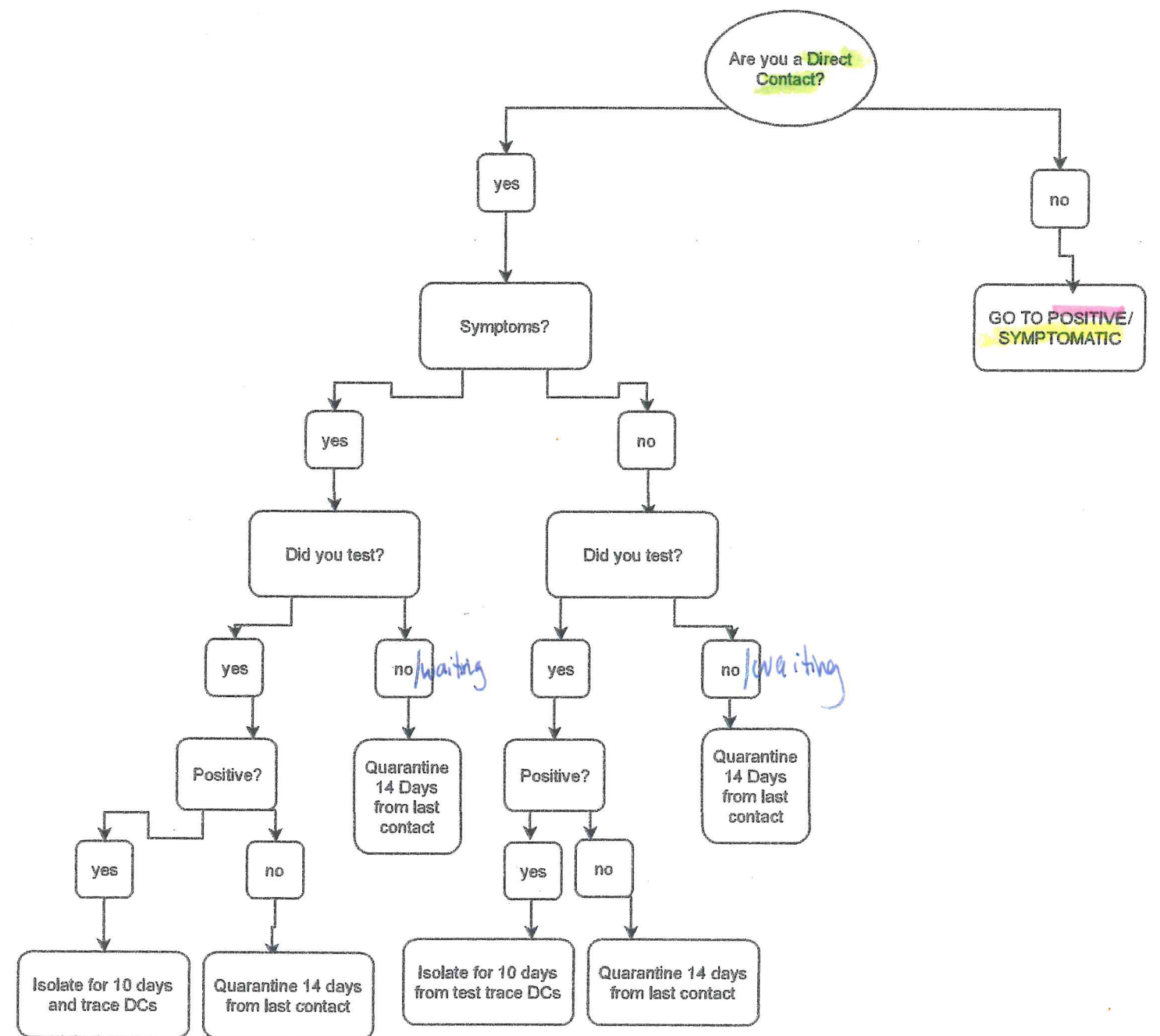
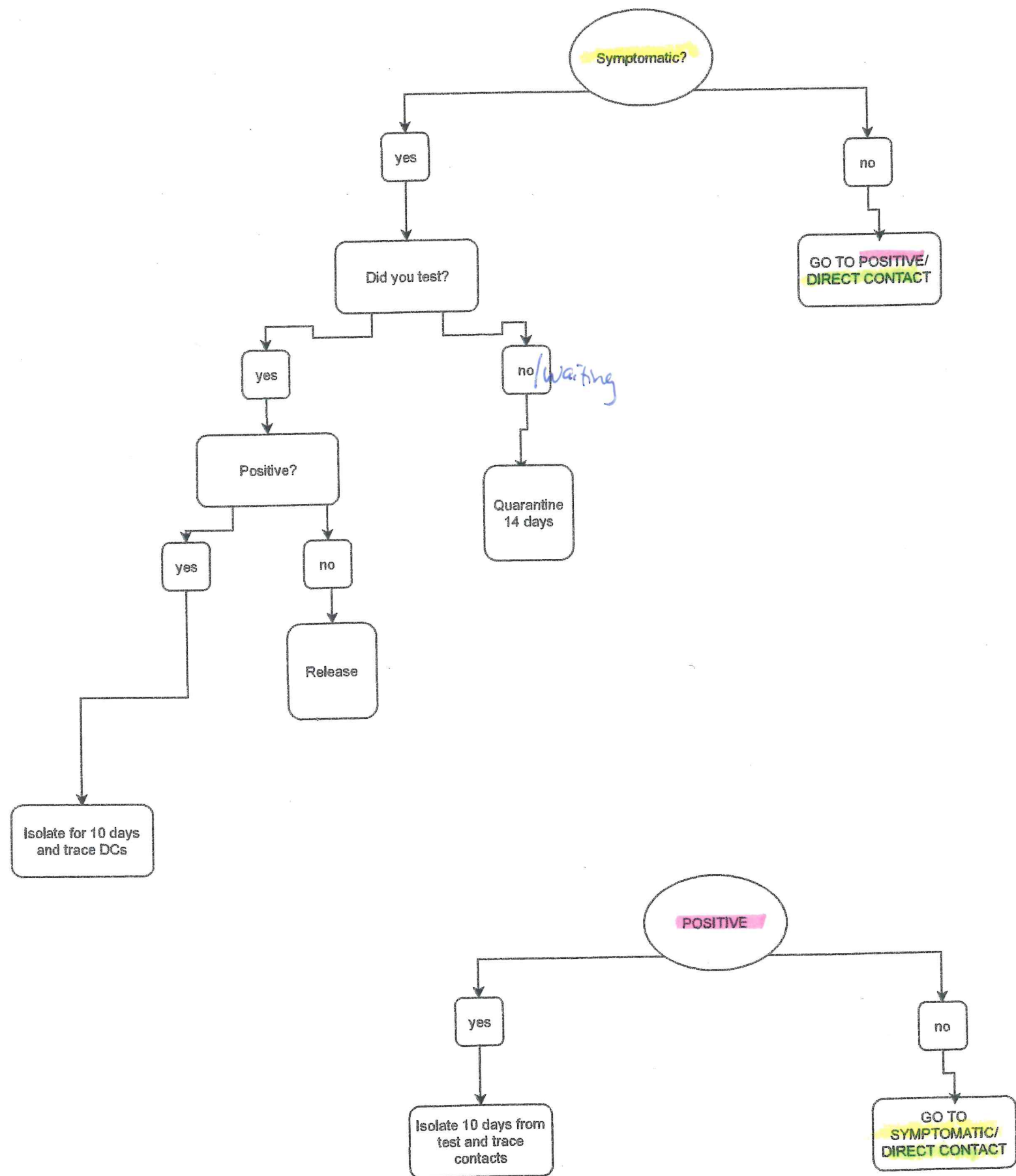
Christiann Bayne, LMSW

Counselor / Coordinator of Career Development
Louisiana Tech Career Center
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‘Career Closet’ offers students professional attire

By Cathi Cox-Boniol
community@rustonleader.com

If you want to help, you can “give someone the shirt off your back.” At Louisiana Tech University, giving someone the shirt out of your closet can accomplish the same thing.

That scenario played out when Allie DeLeo-Allen, director of enrollment management and employer relations for Tech’s College of Engineering and Science (COES), was faced with a student considering turning down an interview because he lacked professional attire. Moved by this situation, she pulled one of her husband’s shirts from the closet and gave it to the student for the interview.

“This really highlighted the need for providing professional dress to students,” said Avery Broussard, coordinator of employer relations and Career Center events at Tech. “And it ultimately became the catalyst that sparked the start of the Career Closet on campus.”

While staff members have observed a student’s need for professional attire for years, the idea for the Career Closet only began germinating in 2018.

“The need for the Career Closet has been evi-

dent for many years,” said Jessica George, executive director of student services and placement for the COES. “And while we knew the need existed, we didn’t have a formal professional dress resource for students. After Dr. DeLeo-Allen’s experience, she was inspired to pull together a team to tackle this issue once and for all.”

The initiative became a collaborative effort across Tech’s campus. Representatives from the Career Center in Student Affairs, the College of Business, the COES, and the Fashion Merchandising Department in the College of Applied and Natural Sciences all were integral players in the project’s evolution.

Located in Keeny Hall, the Career Closet will allow students to “shop” for suits, pants, skirts, dresses, tops, ties and accessories. Services include a full professional outfit to students, 3D body imaging, professional headshots, style consultations, and other benefits.

Kathleen Heiden, associate professor of fashion merchandising and retail studies, said that according to research, 80% of an employer’s decision to hire a candidate is based on his or her ap-



Photo by ASHLEY COX

Madison Felts, a marketing student in Louisiana Tech University’s College of Business, browses through items now being stocked in the campus Career Closet.

pearance. However, a common obstacle in a student’s career path is an inability to access or afford an appropriate, professional and well-fitting wardrobe.

“A first impression cannot be duplicated when meeting an employer, and your appearance is the only non-verbal communication that you cannot alter when meeting someone,” Heiden said.

While the Career Closet services are pro-

vided at no cost, students are required to perform several tasks before receiving their free attire, such as completing a resume review, participating in a virtual mock interview, activating their Handshake account on the University Career Services platform and attending other professional development opportunities. The goal is to supply students with not only the needed attire, but also the confi-

dence and skills needed to be successful in their professional lives.

“As a campus, we help students to develop not only academically but also professionally,” Broussard said. “Those skills paired with a professional image will help our students shine.”

While the pandemic slowed progress, the project is on track to be fully stocked and officially open in the fall of 2021.

“We plan to stock attire mostly through donations from faculty, staff, alumni, employer partners, and members of the community,” Broussard said.

“We also are working on grant funding to purchase new or gently used clothing in very small and big or tall sizes we will likely not receive in abundance. The whole operation is based mainly on donations and we are open to any members of the community who want to help us fill those gaps. The goal is to never have to turn away a student because their size is out of stock.”

Donation bins will be located in various areas on campus and within the community at businesses that have partnered with the Career Closet, further generating interest, curiosity and excitement for the burgeoning project.

“We also hope to grow the program and offer paid internships and student-worker positions for fashion merchandising and other students to experience real life skills like inventory management, customer service, stocking, etc.,” Broussard said. “Although small, we want this to feel like you’re walking into a real boutique or retail setting.”

Michelle Obama, Mia Hamm among 9 chosen for Women’s Hall of Fame

SENECA FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—Former first lady Michelle Obama and soccer star Mia Hamm have been chosen for the National Women’s Hall of Fame as part of a Class of 2021 announced Monday that also includes former PepsiCo Chief Executive Indra Nooyi

and retired Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead.

Halstead commanded in combat as the first female commanding general at the strategic level in Iraq.

NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, who died last year, also will be inducted during

an Oct. 2 ceremony, along with the late author Octavia Butler, Native American artist Joy Harjo, abolitionist Emily Howland and artist Judy Chicago.

The National Women’s Hall of Fame inducts a new class every other year in Seneca

Falls, the site of the first women’s rights convention. As in other years, this year’s ceremony will be in person, hall officials said, but tickets will not be available until April or May, when there is a better understanding of COVID-19 protocols for live events.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

March 22
She-harrah Wiley

Today
Delainey Marsh

March 27
Mary Crowe, 94

Sunday
Virginia Peterson, 69

March 19
Dyquan Roberts

To have a celebration published call 255-4353 at least three days prior. Celebrations run as space allows.

Find us on Facebook

SENSE & SENSITIVITY

Son’s girlfriend needs more boundaries

DEAR HARRIETTE: My son’s girlfriend is getting way too comfortable at our house. I like to make everyone feel warm and welcome in my home, but she has definitely crossed the line. She’ll come over when he isn’t even home from work yet and will watch TV loudly in the living room, help herself to whatever is in the fridge and talk on the phone.

She’s a very sweet girl, and I love having her over, but I think that boundaries need to be established at some point. I’ve asked my son to talk to her about it.

While he claims that he will, I know that conversation may never happen because he isn’t confrontational. I don’t want to create hostility by confronting her myself; my son may never forgive me if I make her upset. How do I approach the situation and still maintain peace?

Knock First

DEAR KNOCK FIRST: Talk to your son again. Express to him what you want the boundaries to be. Be crystal clear so that he understands what your expectations are. For example, if you do not want her to come over before he gets home from work, make that a rule.

Go through your list of pet peeves, and make it clear to your son that they have to be addressed. Ask him if he intends to talk to her. Give him a deadline.

If he misses it, tell him that you will talk to her. There is nothing wrong with you establishing the ground rules in your own house. Even if your son does get upset, he will get over it. You can kindly and clearly set the rules and let her know what they are.

Talking on the phone and disrupting the household is certainly an issue. You have every right to ask her to speak more quietly. If she can’t do that, she can use her phone outside. Really.



By
Harriette Cole

DEAR HARRIETTE: My ex-boyfriend just lost a close friend of his very suddenly. When I heard what happened, I instantly thought to call and check on him. He was very appreciative that I reached out, but that was about two weeks ago, and our communication has not yet ceased.

We still talk regularly. I had no intentions of staying in constant contact with him after offering my condolences. We weren’t on speaking terms before the tragedy, and I didn’t plan on getting back on speaking

terms with him. He seems to really need someone right now, so I’ve been there for him, trying to help with his grief, but I fear that it’s gone too far. I don’t think we need to speak any more, but I don’t want to abandon him at a time when he’s really hurting. What should I do?

Empathetic Ex

DEAR EMPATHETIC EX: You can gently start weaning your ex from your constant engagements. Don’t make it abrupt, as he is still very tender. Just begin to be less available. You can also recommend that he go to grief counseling. Since his friend died suddenly, lots of emotions will likely continue to swirl for some time. Getting professional help to work through all that he is experiencing would be beneficial to him.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyle list and founder of DREAMLEAPERS.

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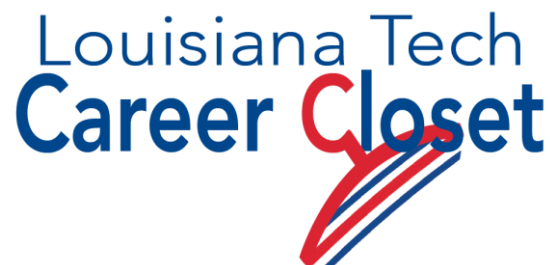
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The Louisiana Tech Career Closet: Providing Free Professional Dress to Louisiana Tech Students

Project Abstract:

The Louisiana Tech Career Center in collaboration with the Fashion Merchandising and Retail Studies Program and as well as the College of Business, the College of Engineering and Sciences as well as other partnerships across campus is seeking a grant to help launch a Career Closet administrated by Fashion Merchandising to offer professional clothing to students helping them be able to enter the workforce. Students in need of a professional look – whether head-to-toe or just the finishing touch of an accessory - are welcome to “shop” the Louisiana Tech Career Closet at no cost. Items available in the closet include: suits, pants, skirts, dresses, tops, ties, accessories and other miscellaneous professional wardrobe items. Many of these articles are generously donated by Louisiana Tech alumni, community members, and local employers. The objective of this program is to ensure no Louisiana Tech student is unprepared for their next career fair, interview, or other professional event due to a lack of or inadequate wardrobe. Funding in the amount of \$4,000 is requested for the overhead costs of opening Louisiana Tech Career Closet and including technology, mannequins, inventory supplies, and donor collection materials.

Statement of Need

A common obstacle in a student’s collegiate career path is an inability to access or afford an appropriate, professional, and well-fitting wardrobe. Students have emailed, called and come by in person to ask about whether professional dress is mandatory for our events. Many of our events do require professional dress and we encourage them to take advantage of various costs saving options but for some, any cost is still more than they can afford. Previously, the Louisiana Tech Career Center has taken steps to help students acquire professional dress at discounted prices with events like the twice annual J.C. Penney Suit Up Event and our director has gone as far as bringing ties from his own collection to On Campus Interview days to give to students who show up without them. Our staff tries our best to advise students ahead of time to prepare their dress for the interview but for some students a polo and khakis is the best they can come up with on a college budget. In these cases we have been known to lend our own sports coat if we wore one that day and if the student is of similar size. According to research, 80% of employer’s decision to hire a candidate is based on his/her appearance. A first impression cannot be duplicated when meeting an employer and your appearance is the only non-verbal communication that you cannot adjust when meeting someone. The Career Closet helps to ensure that Louisiana Tech students’ appearances provided the non-verbal communication to employers that they are serious and prepared to enter the workforce, allowing their qualifications, personality, and professional demeanor to be the lasting traits in the employer’s mind.