



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND FORESTRY

Hello!

My name is Lauren Hoffman Jennings and I am the Greenhouse Lab Supervisor for Louisiana Tech University. Getting this job has been one of the joys of my life. I am grateful to say that I enjoy coming to work every day. The people I who surround me play a huge part in this. I could not successfully operate the La Tech Greenhouse without my team of students.

As Greenhouse Supervisor for Louisiana Tech, I have always tried to create a welcoming work atmosphere. Knowing the students feel valued it is important to me. Receiving thank you notes and words of encouragement from me are a part of the work environment at the Tech Greenhouse.

Building communication and interpersonal skills is also something I focus on with my students. In the work place and post collegiate life, confident communication with your superiors, co-workers and people you meet is of utmost importance. If students have a problem, schedule conflict, or question, I make myself available to talk and work through these issues with them. As supervisor, I make similar efforts to teach the importance of networking and community building. Contributing to your community strengthens social skills, builds helpful relationships and connections and also brings the unique joy of giving to others. Whether we are serving our poinsettia customers, selling at our local farmers market or delivering plants to nursing homes, the students I work with are exposed to a wide a variety people and opportunities to help the community.

Providing a space for learning is one of the biggest parts of our work experience. This means also making space for mistakes as a normal part of learning. Plant propagation, biology and life cycle, greenhouse management, and strong work ethic are things students have an opportunity to learn here. My greater hope is that they learn about themselves, gain self-confidence and feel equipped for life after working with me and their time here at Louisiana Tech University.

Thank you so much for the nomination of Student Outreach Award. I am thrilled to even be considered!

With gratitude,

Lauren Hoffman Jennings
Greenhouse Lab Supervisor
Louisiana Tech University

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES - P.O. BOX 10198 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0045 • TEL: (318) 257-3275 • FAX: (318) 257-4288
FORESTRY - P.O. BOX 10138 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0045 • TEL: (318) 257-4985 • FAX: (318) 257-5061

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY



SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND FORESTRY

4/28/2021

Louisiana Tech University Student Outreach Award Committee
Louisiana Tech University
Ruston, LA 71272

Committee Members:

I am writing a letter of recommendation for Lauren Hoffman Jennings for the Louisiana Tech Student Outreach Award. I have known Lauren for approximately 5 years. In fact, Lauren was hired when I was Director of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry. I have found Lauren to be compassionate, dependable, respectful, and she places a priority on mentoring and instructing those under her guidance. She possesses excellent morals and is well educated in her field of study.

Lauren is in charge of student workers at the Louisiana Tech Greenhouses. I have received reports from students of her dedication to her job and her desire to instill good work ethics in her workers. She is very compassionate toward her students and goes the extra mile to make sure her students can effectively communicate, develop social skills and make strides toward being able to make a positive contribution into their community when they leave Louisiana Tech.

I am very familiar with Lauren and her work ethic and morals instilled in her by her family. She and her husband live near me and I see firsthand her work hours at her Louisiana Tech job plus the hours she puts in at her own gardens. I also see how many guests she invites to her house to participate in gardening activities. She wants to disseminate her knowledge so that others can use her best management practices to grow plants in an environmentally friendly way.

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES - P.O. BOX 10198 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0045 • TEL: (318) 257-3275 • FAX: (318) 257-4288
FORESTRY - P.O. BOX 10138 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0045 • TEL: (318) 257-4985 • FAX: (318) 257-5061

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY

I recommend Lauren for this award without hesitation. I have seen the difference she makes in students and the respect she has for other faculty. I feel the students that Lauren mentors will leave Louisiana Tech with improved work ethic, a vast knowledge of plants, and satisfaction knowing their mentor cares for them and wants them to succeed.

Please contact me if you questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William H. Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William H. Green, DVM

Professor Emeritus Louisiana Tech University

wgreen@latech.edu



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL
SCIENCES AND FORESTRY
COLLEGE OF APPLIED AND
NATURAL SCIENCES

April 30, 2021

Dear Awards Committee,


This letter of reference is for Mrs. Lauren Hoffman Jennings. Lauren is the Louisiana Tech Greenhouse Lab Supervisor on South Campus. In that position, she leads an effort that produces thousands of plants each year that are used for sales to the community, teaching, and research. In addition to supervising plant production, Lauren goes beyond what is asked of her to facilitate educational experiences for students in the area of Plant Science.

Over the last couple of years, Lauren has led groups of grade school students on tours through the greenhouses. These tours involved hands-on experiences such as harvesting vegetables from a garden and filling pots with soil and planting seeds. One particular group of students with special needs has visited multiple times, and Lauren does a fantastic job explaining the importance of gardening while providing proper accommodations so the experience is memorable for them. Tech students studying Plant Science have often become interns at the greenhouses and Lauren openly accepts that additional supervisory role in order to teach them specific greenhouse practices that provides exposure beyond what a normal student worker would be called to do. Currently this spring, one student she is working with is trying to propagate rare native plant species that will add to the diversity of a local nature preserve in north Louisiana.

Lauren has assisted students from other degree programs in many ways. She oversees the daily operation and maintenance of the plant conservatory at Lomax Hall, which is a glassed-in display garden that showcases tropical plants. Students studying art often go there to have examples of rare plants to draw. She recently led a group of students studying architecture through the greenhouses to show them the layout of the facility, so they could have a better understanding of an assigned project in their course that involved greenhouse design.

Lauren's desire for passing along knowledge of plants and agriculture to students comes from her heart, and it makes it far more noble in my mind given that is not what she was essentially hired to do. She goes above and beyond, and I am incredibly grateful she is an integral part of our academic program on South Campus.

Sincerely,

D. Paul Jackson, Ph.D. 
Norman and May Pipes Johnson Associate Professor of Plant Science
School of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry
(318) 257-2412; pjackson@latech.edu

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES - P.O. BOX 10198 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0045 • TEL: (318) 257-3275 • FAX: (318) 257-4288
FORESTRY - P.O. BOX 10138 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0045 • TEL: (318) 257-4985 • FAX: (318) 257-5061

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND FORESTRY

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Maxwell Hyde. I am an Agricultural Business student with a concentration in Plant Science; and I have been employed under Lauren Hoffman's supervision at the Louisiana Tech Greenhouses for approximately 3 years.

Lauren Hoffman has been the most influential person I have encountered in my college career. The amount of respect I have for her, her accomplishments and the person that she embodies is immeasurable. She plays a substantial role in cultivating my growth and development in academics, horticulture and as an individual. Time after time she has led by example: showing me what it means to embody respect, service, and kindness to everyone in the work environment. It would be a challenge to recount the numerous times she has served as a teacher, supporter and role model, but my hope is to accurately depict Lauren's aptitude for service in a short page or two.

Lauren makes great strides to ensure that her employees feel valued and welcomed under her employment at the Louisiana Tech Greenhouses. Every year on Student Worker Appreciation Week, she orders a cookie cake in honor of the blood, sweat, and tears that my fellow student workers and I give on the job. She makes efforts to make her employees feel valued in saying "Thank you for doing that" and "I appreciate your hard work." This example is one of many small acts of kindness on her behalf, but these repeated acts of gratefulness and kindness foster an environment in which my fellow workers and I feel respected and valued.

As I endeavored to start my own cut flower business, Lauren offered me every means of support she could provide. Through the years she has patiently given her knowledge to me and taught me a wide array of horticultural principles which I have applied to my business. During this time, she acted as a sounding board and offered constructive criticism to my plans and horticultural prospects. Lauren provided a space for me to conduct research trials on cut flowers at the Louisiana Tech Greenhouse, which gave me the means to get my business off the ground. Without her help, guidance and support I would not have had the ability to pursue my dream.

While working at Louisiana Tech Greenhouse, I have seen what true leadership is by how Lauren has served and supported me and others. As I look at my life, there have been few people to see me for the man that I am and done everything in their power to enable me to be the best version of myself but Lauren Hoffman is one of those people. In this way and countless others, Lauren has helped me and I will be forever grateful for the influence and impact she has had on my life.

Sincerely,

Maxwell Hyde

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES - P.O. BOX 10198 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0045 • TEL: (318) 257-3275 • FAX: (318) 257-4288
FORESTRY - P.O. BOX 10138 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0045 • TEL: (318) 257-4985 • FAX: (318) 257-5061

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY