



DEBORAH INMAN, MBA
DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

April 25, 2021

University Senate Member,

My life changed directions when I became part of the Louisiana Tech family. I married a La Tech professor (Tony Inman) and the rest is history so to speak. When we met, I was divorced and working to support two children. With Tony's encouragement, I gave notice at work and began classes at Tech to complete my undergrad in order to gain an MBA.

I truly believe the Lord opened doors for me to begin work at Louisiana Tech with the entrepreneurship program. I have always been an employee that must feel a "strong connection/allegiance" with both the work I do and the employer with which I work. Developing the entrepreneurship related activities offered at Louisiana Tech has been a mission of service for me.

I work with wonderful people who open a world of opportunity up for our students. When we instill/introduce an entrepreneurial mindset to/in a portion of our students, I believe they will create tremendous change within society. I have collaborated with individuals from all colleges on campus. Teaching classes with professors from multiple disciplines serves to give our students "real world" exposure to multi-sided projects.

I believe Louisiana Tech is a wonderful college. I also believe Louisiana Tech strongly influences its students, employees and our region to reach for a better future. My service to the TOP DOG competitions and other entrepreneurship related activities on campus is rewarding. It is a thrill for me to hear each TOP DOG student's final round pitch. I hear the conviction in their voices and see results from all their work. These are individuals who may never start a business, but I know they will view life from an entrepreneurial perspective because they have participated in our classes, activities and competitions.

Sincerely,
Debbie Inman

Deborah F. Inman, Director
Center for Entrepreneurship & Information Technology

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Date: April 26, 2021

Re: Loyalty Award Nomination – Mrs. Debbie Inman

From: Dr. Kirk Ring, Department Chair - MGMT

The purpose of this letter is to support the nomination of Mrs. Debbie Inman, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology (CEnIT), for the 2021 Louisiana Tech University Loyalty Award. Mrs. Inman is an ideal candidate for this award because she truly embodies the tenets of Tech while also displaying extraordinary levels of loyalty and dedication to her students and the university at large. The most obvious display of these qualities come through her activities as a student advisor and as the leader of the annual entrepreneurship competition called the New Venture Championship.

Debbie advises students who earn a degree in Management with a concentration in Entrepreneurship. These students have a strong focus on gaining expertise across a number of area including business management, startup activities, technology, negotiation, financial literacy, and networking to assist in fundraising activities. Advising students with this array of needs can be extremely challenging. Mrs. Inman goes above and beyond her normal duties to simply schedule classes. She provides students with an entire curriculum plan, quarter by quarter, and updates this plan with them during each advising period. She counsels students concerning their academic performance as well their life goals. Most importantly though, what sets Debbie apart from her peers is she continues to advise her students through the many initiatives and activities she has created via CEnIT.

All entrepreneurship students must compete in the New Venture Championship because their senior level classes require it. Debbie does an exceptional job motivating freshmen, sophomore, and junior standing students to compete in the competition as many times as possible prior to those required courses. She knows that interacting with customers, suppliers, lawyers, engineers, and financial institutions throughout their time at Tech will effectively prepare the students to take the next step and eventually launch their own private enterprise. The result is that Mrs. Inman mentors her students and their many entrepreneurial teammates over a four year period. These meetings often take place across campus, at late hours, and with little assistance.

The entire planning process for the New Venture Championship is developed and executed by Mrs. Inman. She also teaches or has developed several multidisciplinary courses over the years that coincide with the timing of New Venture Championship events. Her ability to

accomplish this level of coordination is even more impressive when considering the fact that she has to meet the needs of students pursuing degrees in business, engineering, fashion merchandising, architecture, health, etc. This is an extraordinarily difficult process and she does this with confidence, integrity, enthusiasm, and pride.

Thus, owing to superb long-term course scheduling for her advisees, valuable mentoring activities for students across campus, her attention to curriculum development for the entrepreneurship discipline, and an amazing level of loyalty and dedication toward building the New Venture Championship into a key point of competitive advantage for student participants and the university, I believe Mrs. Debbie Inman is a very deserving candidate for the 2021 Louisiana Tech University Loyalty Award.

Sincerely,

J. Kirk Ring

J. Kirk Ring, Ph.D.
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DR. CHRISTOPHER L. MARTIN
DEAN
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

April 26, 2021

RE: Loyalty Award: Debbie Inman

It gives me great pleasure to support the nomination of Debbie Inman for the 2020-21 Louisiana Tech University Loyalty Award. Debbie serves as the Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology (CEnIT) and has been a loyal and much valued member of the COB faculty since 2002. She embodies each of the criteria required of this award including excellence in service to the University, commitment to students, faculty and staff, and collaboration across all campus lines.

As CEnIT director, she is and has been the force across campus behind student entrepreneurship and programming that support commercialization and an understanding of what it takes for new venture creation. She is perhaps best known by students, faculty, staff and community for her extraordinary work and passion directing the Top Dog new venture Championship. Working with students and faculty from across the Colleges, Top Dog provides a forum for students to apply their business and financial management knowledge, negotiation and presentation skills, and to develop a viable plan and pitch for their dream start-up. Top Dog was so popular with our students that Debbie assisted with the launch of Top Pup, a signature program of the College of Business, in which all of our first-year students participate and make a "shark tank" style pitch.

Not only does Debbie spend countless hours of her time organizing and directing these hands-on entrepreneurial activities, but she also does an exceptional job in the classroom teaching courses in the entrepreneurship curriculum and developing new multidisciplinary courses that attract students in droves. She is perhaps one of our most sought-after advisors by students who are interested in starting a business, as well as those who seek counsel about professional goals and personal concerns. I know students seek her out because of her welcoming, optimistic, and down-to-earth demeanor. I have personally seen Debbie with students at all hours of the day and night who call on her for help. She is perhaps one of the most dedicated faculty members we have in the College, who always has time for a student and always goes above and beyond to deliver the best experience for students and the faculty and staff with whom she works.

Debbie bleeds Tech Blue! I cannot think of a better individual to receive 2020-21 Louisiana Tech University Loyalty Award. I cannot believe that she was not a past recipient, and I recommend her selection without any reservation. Should you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Martin, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Business & Chase Professor of Management

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SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

Dr. William Stammerjohan
Harold J. Smolinski Eminent Scholar Chair – Accounting
School of Accountancy
Louisiana Tech University
Ruston, LA 71272

April 26, 2021

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of support for Debbie Inman's nomination for the Louisiana Tech 2021 staff "Loyalty Award." I have known Debbie for the 17 years I have been at Tech. She has been a key contributor to the quality of education we provide in the School of Business and has provided benefits across campus through her leadership in the TOP DAWG New Venture Championship. It would be very hard, if not impossible, to find a harder working or more loyal member of the Tech family than Debbie Inman.

One of the many services she performs is heading up the annual TOP DAWG New Venture Championship. This program provides a number of benefits for the students, the University, for the business community, and for the potential consumers and users of these new innovations. The process benefits students on the innovation side of these projects by introducing them to the business side of entrepreneurship. The best ideas are not going to be commercially successful without out planning, financing, and marketing. This process benefits the students on the business side of these projects by giving them the experience in applying what they have learned in their business classes to a real life project. The process benefits all students involved by forcing them to learn to communicate with those in other disciplines and learning to sell their ideas to others.

The process benefits the business community through their participation in the judging process. This involvement brings the business community into contact with our current crop of talented students. The University benefits from the positive publicity this program provides.

With all these benefits, TOPDAWG would not exist, or be successful, without the countless hours Debbie spends on the planning, recruiting, and prompting. She not only has to plan the event but recruit student participants, faculty mentors, and judges from the business community. Absolutely none of these activities are easy.

TOP DAWG is only one of the many roles Debbie plays at Tech, but I have chosen this activity to concentrate on because I have seen the hard work and benefits of TOP DAWG in detail serving as one of her faculty mentors.

I believe it is in the best interest of Louisiana Tech to honor Debbie Inman for her hard work and undying loyalty.

If you have further questions please contact me at:

Email: wstammer@latech.edu

Phone: 318-680-6662

Sincerely,
Dr. William Stammerjohan

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