

Wes Cavin  
5/9/2022

Dear Members of the University Senate,

It was truly an honor to learn that I have been nominated for the Loyalty Award for unclassified staff. In my role at Tech, I am often in meetings with student leaders when the question is asked: "What tenet of Tech do you most associate with?" For me, the tenet that I most associate with is and has always been Loyalty. Although my professional time at Tech has only spanned 8 years, my Louisiana Tech loyalty began to grow nearly 25 years ago. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to briefly share some of the reasons that I have loved this University and will always be loyal to it.

I grew up in the small town of Vidalia, Louisiana. My parents were not in a financial position to send me to college and I don't believe they understood the value of going to college. Thankfully, I was blessed with a young uncle who set a path for me to follow and in the absence of my biological father, my uncle acted as a big brother who gave me wisdom and guidance. My uncle recognized that our best shot at having a better quality of life than what our family provided was to go to college and he was afforded the opportunity to study at Louisiana Tech University. Throughout middle school and high school, my uncle would invite me to spend weekends and school breaks with him at Tech. Whenever I'd visit, I'd sleep on the floor of his room in Hutcheson Hall and we'd go to the Lambright to play racquetball, to the cafeteria to eat, to Tech sporting events, concerts, and so much more. I had the opportunity to experience Louisiana Tech in a very cool way at a young age and my love for this University began to grow tremendously. In high school, there was no second option for what I would do after graduation. I was going to be a bulldog just like my uncle. I was going to find a way to leave the struggles of my childhood in Vidalia and enter a new world that I felt would give me opportunities that I otherwise would not have. I mostly had to finance my own way through college, but thankfully Tech was an affordable option and so I continued my Louisiana Tech journey as an undergraduate in 2005.

In my sophomore year at Tech, I was given the opportunity to become an RA. I was able to serve in Neilson Hall. I remember a dad asked me on my first day of work if the ceiling tiles and mattresses were the same as when he lived there in the 70s. I chuckled and arranged for the ceiling tiles to be replaced and for a new mattress for the student and my goal became helping students to feel like Louisiana Tech was their "home" despite not maybe having all of the luxuries they had at their parent's home. I did this by trying to create a community where relationships could flourish. I helped students to get involved and to engage in the Tech culture and I believe that I was able to help many of my residents feel like they were home at Louisiana Tech.

Despite a few major changes, I graduated in four years and two quarters with my bachelor's degree in Business Management and Entrepreneurship. Immediately after graduation I served as the Camp Director of MedCamps of Louisiana. During my tenure at MedCamps, I always looked for opportunities to partner with Louisiana Tech. I helped identify the first project for the Design Build Architecture course with Mr. Robert Brooks and Mr. Brad Deal. I also always made sure we had Louisiana Tech students hired as counselors because I felt like our students were simply the best. In 2014, I was provided with an opportunity to come back to Tech, this time in a professional capacity, serving as the Director of Alumni Relations. Ms. Corre Stegall, Mr. Ryan Richard, and Mrs. Jennifer Riley took a chance on me and I will forever be grateful to them for their belief in me to represent Tech. There were not many opportunities that would have motivated me to leave MedCamps but the chance to serve my Alma Mater in a professional capacity was an opportunity that I could not resist.

As the Director of Alumni Relations, I had the opportunity to invite alumni from all over the country to re-engage with Louisiana Tech. I loved getting to hear stories from other alumni about their time at Tech. It was a natural fit for me to serve in the Alumni Association. I bleed bulldog blue and I think alumni respected that. I stayed in this role until 2017, when I accepted the position of Director of Student Activities. This gave me the opportunity to invest more closely in students along with my wife, who at the time was working in Residential Life.

Through my wife's work, we had the opportunity to move onto campus and really serve the students in a unique capacity. We lived in Harper Hall for 2 years and later we moved to the new Aswell Suites, where we brought our fourth child home from the hospital to a small, 800 square foot apartment and lived for another 2 years. It was not uncommon for us to host students at our home for holidays when they didn't or couldn't go home or to throw birthday parties for students who had become our "adopted" children. Even birthday parties for our own children usually had mostly college students as guests. Our family expanded by several hundred people as a result of us working and living on campus.

As the Director of Student Activities, I get the opportunity to serve as direct advisor of SGA and Union Board. We collectively work together to continue to promote many Louisiana Tech traditions. Every day is different and there is no way to simply describe my role. I spend most of my days helping to plan events for the entire student body or identifying ways to make campus better for our students. I have administrative oversight over all student organizations and as such I get to work with nearly 200 student leaders, helping them to build soft skills that often have as much impact on professional success as content knowledge. Every day, I get to reminisce about my time at Tech and help others to come to love Tech the way I do. I believe in meeting students where they are, and as such I spend many late nights engaging with our students at meetings and events. I am accessible at all times to our students, even when I am not on campus because I think it helps them to see my commitment to serving them.

I have grown up around Louisiana Tech, and in my 8 years of professional service to Tech, my family has grown up on campus. We have been blessed with so many cherished relationships with other faculty and staff, alumni, and a new group of students each year. I earned my MBA from Tech while having four children and working in Student Activities full time. I think growing up in poverty and having to work so hard to graduate helped me to have a greater appreciation of the opportunities that I have been given, thanks to Louisiana Tech. I have become a better version of myself than I ever could have imagined because of the people who have walked through the beautiful halls and who have taken pleasant walks with me. My children have played around the noble trees that charmed me in my college days and those days will always be dear to me. The work is seldom easy, but it is always worth it. Louisiana Tech University has given so much to me and because of this I will ever loyal be to thee, my Alma Mater.

Thank you for considering me for this award and for the opportunity to share my story with you.

Ever Loyal Be,



Wes Cavin



**Director of Student Conduct  
and Academic Integrity**

May 9, 2022

Dear Award Selection Committee:

As a friend and colleague, I am extremely pleased to support Mr. Wes Cavin's nomination for the Loyalty Award. Wes has worked at Tech for 8 years, and I have worked with him for over 5 years on the Behavioral Standards Committee. During this time, Wes has consistently displayed a wide range of exceptional qualities while building a record of outstanding performance as a mentor, educator, coach, and role model. Mr. Cavin's brand of University loyalty is revealed through not only his commitment to serving students and his passionate nature, but his earnest desire to make Tech better.

Through his role as a chair of a Behavioral Standards Committee group for the last 2 years, Wes consistently exemplifies loyalty to Tech through his unparalleled commitment to committee service at the University. Wes' service-oriented demeanor, which is both passionate and genuine, allows him to positively connect with students while holding them accountable at the same time. I often marvel at how Mr. Cavin treats students who come before the Behavioral Standards Committee with dignity regardless of their alleged violations. Additionally, Wes displays compassion by connecting with students who may be in violation of University policy; however, he challenges those who are found responsible for violating policy to self-reflect and take ownership of their situation. As an educator, mentor, and coach, Wes empowers students to be better.

Serving on the Behavioral Standards Committee can at times be downright taxing in a myriad of ways on committee members with several meetings per month, long hours, sensitive cases, and students' educational futures at stake; yet, Mr. Cavin, when called, consistently shows up, rolls up his sleeves and gets to work helping students get back on path. There have been countless times when I have contacted him at the very last minute to serve as a replacement committee member or as a chair on a Behavioral Standards Committee, and he has adjusted his schedule and saved the day.

Finally, Mr. Cavin consistently seeks, develops, and maintains productive relationships with his peers and the administration as well. He is highly thought of and respected for the passion that he brings to the work that he does. Consequently, he is a tremendous asset to Louisiana Tech University. Mr. Wes Cavin is both qualified for and deserving of the Loyalty Award. If you have any questions, you may contact me at (318) 257-3396.

Sincerely,

Adam Collins  
Director of Conduct and Academic Integrity





# LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 6, 2022

Louisiana Tech University  
University Senate Awards Committee

Dear Awards Committee,

It is a privilege for me to write a letter of support for Wes Cavin, Director of Student Activities and Student Programs, for the Loyalty Award.

I first met Wes when he applied to be the Director of Alumni Relations in 2014. During his interview, the committee was very impressed with his passion to serve and his love for Louisiana Tech, ultimately hiring him for the position that I was vacating. Wes worked tirelessly to engage alumni and connect them with their alma mater over the three-year period that he served in the Division of University Advancement.

However, his time at Louisiana Tech was not ending. His passion for mentoring and working with young people led him to his current position as the Director of Student Activities and Student Programs. The impact he has had since assuming this role has enhanced our student programs dramatically. His compassionate demeanor and unselfish desire to serve and encourage students has had a tremendous impact on the programs he oversees. Wes and his wife, Lindsay, had a very unique opportunity that many young couples don't have. They were able to live on campus with their young family while Lindsay worked for Residential Life. This presented some challenges at times but Wes embraced the opportunity to interact with students at all times of the day and night, always being willing to listen, encourage, and guide them in a positive way.

I could use many of the Tenets of Tech to describe Wes, but if forced to choose one, *loyalty* rises to the top of the list. Per the Tech website, loyalty is described as faithfulness to values, commitments, and responsibilities. Wes Cavin is loyal to his family, his church, Louisiana Tech, the student body, and his co-workers. The list could go on and on. Louisiana Tech is a better place because not only is Wes a dedicated loyal employee but he is part of the Tech Family who is committed to making Tech the best that it can be.

Louisiana Tech is blessed with many loyal employees, but Wes Cavin is a name that always comes to my mind when I hear "For Ever Loyal Be" because that is who he is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ryan W. Richard".

Ryan W. Richard  
Chief of Staff for Presidential Initiatives

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY



LOUISIANA TECH  
U N I V E R S I T Y

May 7, 2022

Dear Award Committee,

It is my honor to recommend Wes Cavin for the Loyalty Award. I have had the opportunity to work with Wes for the last 5 or so years. I had interacted with him before, but through the process of working with student organizations and the mascot (Tech XXII) I was able to see firsthand the impact that he really has. What I really appreciate about him is that most of the time he does all of this behind the scenes with no one else really knowing.

The position that Wes holds allows him to work with student organizations such as Union Board and SGA. These are very noticed organizations on the campus, but they receive much of the praise. What is not seen is the work behind the scenes, that is being done by him, that makes this happen. He is one that helps to mold and shape so many leaders on our campus.

I was really able to see first-hand how his unseen work behind the scenes makes a huge impact on Louisiana Tech when the university was replacing the live mascot. Wes was tasked with a very challenging job of finding the mascot, make sure that everything was in place to be able to acquire the mascot, and also put in place everything that would make the program be successful. My family was chosen as the host family, and I was able to peek behind the scenes of this whole process. Wes handled it all with a professionalism and also a personal approach that was wonderful.

He is truly the definition of loyal. He may not have the extended years of service as some nominees, but he does have an unwavering commitment to this institution. He does what he does without fanfare. He does it because he knows it is the right thing to do. This ranges from work behind the scenes to helping grow leaders across the campus. When I was looking for someone to help provide an outside the college perspective on finding the top students in COES, he was who we reached out to.

Wes would be a great choice for the loyalty award. His efforts which typically go underappreciated are what help make our students great. If you have any further questions with regard to his impact on the university, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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