

NACURH, INC.

Faculty/Staff of the Month

School:

University of Washington

Region:

PACURH

Nominee:

Lauren Boyd

Nominator:Serena
Snyder**On-Campus Population:** 5600**Chapter Size:** 56

Please explain the **outstanding** contributions of the nominee **during the month of nomination**

Someone once told me that, "for every great and influential person, there is someone just as great or greater standing behind them – supporting them". Well it just so happens that "someone" was not just anyone, but rather one of the most influential people within the University of Washington Residence Hall System. As the new Resident Director for Terry Hall, Lauren Boyd has undertaken the task of managing the largest staff on campus of 21 Resident Advisers – the majority of us experiencing our first year as RAs. When the impact of each of those 21 individual Resident Advisers is taken into consideration, the rippling effect of what Lauren does for her staff is staggering.

Although this is Lauren's first year navigating the complex University of Washington Housing and Food Services system, she has taken it upon herself to become an expert resource for her staff. But what makes Lauren a truly exceptional Resident Director is not her ability to step up and fulfill the expectations of her position. Overcoming the disadvantage of unfamiliarity in a new job as thoroughly as Lauren has is commendable, but not exceptional. What makes Lauren truly exceptional is her propensity to take the expectations that have been placed upon her and absolutely blow them off the water. Where in the job description for a Resident Director does it list unparalleled generosity or unrequested accommodation? Yet throughout the month of November, Lauren has demonstrated these characteristics again and again. After telling me about her weekend spent shopping at the farmers market and roasting fresh vegetables during one of our one-on-ones this month, it was completely natural for her to offer to go get some to give to me – and to honestly mean it!

What is even more amazing to me is she how shows this kindness to all of the RAs on her staff at the most appropriate and effective times. For example, during our last RA staff meeting of November she made cupcakes and rice crispy treats just to celebrate the recent birthday of one of the RAs, and she even remembered a song that the RA had told her she loved, brought the song, and played it for the RA during the meeting. While many RDs merely listen for the problems they can help their RAs to handle, Lauren listens for the things that members of her RA staff like and proactively looks for opportunities to use those things just to make their day. Finally, throughout this month Lauren has particularly demonstrated her outstanding willingness to become involved above and beyond what the average RD is required. Although she was so sick the week before that she couldn't even work, illness didn't stop Lauren Boyd from going to PACURH and making it possible for the leaders on campus to learn and grow closer to their full potential there. The idea that Lauren might potentially want to spend her precious evening or weekend time off the job relaxing at home was not even a consideration. In fact, Lauren dropped by my floor program one evening last week after she had worked hard all day long, just to be a support for me. Lauren's presence in these ways throughout this month, and the role model that she so naturally is, influences me and every other individual she works with to exceed the status quo and challenge the bare minimum in order to achieve great things. As I aspire to be that influential person to the residents on my floor, I am grateful that Lauren Boyd is the greater woman who stands behind me wholeheartedly.

Word Count: 600