



Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
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Dear Sirs/Madams:

I write this letter to support the application of Ms. Lakesha L. Lucas. I have known Ms. Lucas since 2004. I have worked with hundreds of student leaders in my time and I must say that Ms. Lucas is one of those students that comes along every so often that re-energizes the spirit and justifies the reasons that I entered the field.

I am currently the Vice President for Student Affairs at Bowie State University and have worked with Ms. Lucas in my capacity over the past years, and prior, as I have seen her grow and mature over the last twelve years. Aside from her induction into the National Society for Student Leadership and Success and the Inaugural Student Leadership Academy, Ms. Lucas has served with distinction on various shared governance groups and has collaborated with Student Affairs on various tasks and projects. She was always looking for way to improve student satisfaction on the campus and responding for students during student emergencies and unsettled times. Her end goal has always been to do what she can to increasing the profile of the university in regards to making the campus an intentional place for student growth and learning. For her work, she will surely be noted as one of the premier role model for young women and young men over my time at Bowie State University.

As far as drive, determination, dedication and development, she has to rate in the top two percent of those students that I have worked with. As an older returning students, she came from a point of unclarity in her life work to a position where she has made success an underpinning of her work and aspirations. Over the last number of years she has impressed me in her constant level of maturity and her eagerness to learn, grow and prepare for life after graduation. Whatever hurdle that has been placed in front of her, she has shown a great level of responsibility, that I have to say, is remarkable. She does not have a 4.0 gpa, but her wisdom and experiences suggest to me that she is intellectually sharp and socially responsible. She has shown a knack at balancing the competing challenges of representing her peers and being true to the responsibilities of student leadership with the administration.

I have been able to work closely with her and observed her over the past number of years. Judgment and character stand out in Ms. Lucas – this is evident when you first meet her and remains evident with each ensuing interaction. I would suspect that others at BSU would be able to attest to that fact. Despite the latest struggles of making cultural and attitudinal changes on the campus at BSU because of genuine concern for African American, and other youth, that have been left on the margins. Ms. Lucas is comfortable working to bring about change. She works as a collaborator but also she is one who accepts responsibility for her actions. Whatever the role, she is a change agent. If you review her resume you will find that she provides both breadth and depth to each and every role that she undertakes.

Ms. Lucas is truly an ambassador for raising awareness of the role and value of students. It is through her pure dedication and determination that she found time to do all of the activities listed in her resume. She has fought to change worn out habits that people use to excuse engagement and involvement.

She has a strong conviction that if you care enough about a certain issue or idea, then you must be prepared to manage your time effectively in order to be most efficient with the commitment to the goals. She had the confidence of her peers because she was very straightforward in her actions. She was both persuasive in her opinions and, most significantly, an outstanding listener.

She is up to the task of working with young people. Her critical thinking skills are always on display. I have no doubt that Ms. Lucas will be impressive to your program – while she is very impressive on paper, she is dually engaging while also intellectually stimulating in person.

It is for the above reasons and many more that I enthusiastically support her application for employment.

If you have questions regarding this letter or why I feel so strongly about Ms. Lucas, please do not hesitate to call me at 301.860.3391. My email address is atravis@bowiestate.edu.

Respectfully,

Artie L. Travis, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
Bowie State University