

Geoffrey Koester

Dear Dr. Amanda Knerr and the Indiana State University Residential Life team,

I am excited to be applying for the Residential Life Hall Coordinator position at Indiana State University. It is through recognizing the incredibly important role that a residence life professional plays in a student's success and holistic development throughout college that led me to pursue this career. Having either lived or worked in university housing units since I first started as an undergraduate student to today, my path has been shaped by the professionals before me and I hope to have a similar impact on students at ISU.

For the past two years at the University of South Florida, I have worked in the department of Residential Education advising the Residence Hall Association and National Residence Hall Honorary student organizations. This role has allowed me to advise and supervise 12 student leaders for each of the past two years as they worked together to plan programming and other initiatives for the residential community. I see my role as the RHA and NRHH advisor as being very similar to that of a traditional residence hall director overseeing a community and staff of resident assistants. I have held my team of students accountable for meeting expectations and deadlines, supported them individually to help them make meaning of the work they are doing for the organization, and provided guidance to the groups as a whole to do work that is contributing to the growth and development of a thriving and inclusive community on campus.

Through my graduate assistantship, I have provided for and facilitated the development and education of a residential community, supervised and evaluated students working towards accomplishing positional tasks and organizational goals, prepared and facilitated entire training programs for students at the start of each semester, and assessed the effectiveness of various programs through surveys and conversations with students. Through my summer internship at Texas Tech University, I gained valuable on-call experience and further enhanced my experience with assessment and community building. As an undergraduate student, I adjudicated conduct cases concerning sexual assault, stalking, and academic dishonesty. At both my undergraduate and graduate institutions, I worked in residence life departments that utilized a residential curriculum which focused on intentional and educational programming in the residence halls. My comprehensive experiences from working at three different institutions have prepared me well for this next step in my professional career.

Throughout my time living and working residence life units, I have seen the value of having a strong integration and partnership with academic faculty and a student's academic experience. Through partnering with faculty and other student affairs staff, residence life professionals can provide holistic development and learning opportunities. Furthermore, I value providing excellent customer service to preserve strong relationships with partners and with students. By utilizing a customer service approach that meets individual needs and ensures prompt recovery from mistakes, we create a better overall experience for students living on campus.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application for the [Position] at [Institution]. I look forward to discussing my qualifications and values more with you in the future.

With Sycamore Pride,

Geoffrey Koester | [REDACTED]