

Nobody Puts Tiffany In A Corner...



Tiffany Happer
Outstanding Service Award
2005

“Nobody puts Baby in a corner.”

This infamous quote from the movie Dirty Dancing represents the fact that there are people in this world who are put in a corner, never to be recognized for who they are and all that they do. They don't get the chance to stand out and shine. Tiffany Happer is not one of those people.

Tiffany has served Kansas State University on many different levels throughout her college career. Starting her freshman year and continuing on each and every day, Tiffany has offered countless things to those around her. She is filled with determination to succeed with anything that she has added her name to and she has done just that.



Over time, Tiffany has met and worked with several people. Each of them has been transformed due to her example and warm attitude. With Tiffany, she looks at a situation and is not afraid to change things up. She believes that there is always another alternative out there and she will work until she finds it. She tries new things even when facing opposition, and she shows courage during even the most difficult times.

For the last five years, Tiffany has devoted herself to many different groups, organizations, and ideas. She is an exemplary student who not only has excelled academically but also has gone above and beyond to make things happen. Very few students have given so much as Tiffany.

“Tiffany has been the epitome of what a dedicated Housing and Dining employee should be. I have never seen anyone so dedicated to the ideals of residence life. Tiffany will go to any length to see a program go through successfully or to see a resident become a better person through what they experience in the halls. Whether the project is big or small, Tiffany will put all of her energy into it. Many of the things I have been a part of would not have been successful had it not been for Tiffany. You would be hard pressed to find a better candidate for this award than Tiffany Happer. Service has been all that Tiffany has done in her time at Kansas State.”

- Penny Teater (Former Housing And Dining Employee)

Starting Out

Tiffany first arrived at Kansas State University in 2000. She selected the major of Architectural Engineering. While this is a challenging field, Tiffany knew that she could do a great job and would have a bright future. She studies the design of the inside systems in buildings, such as the mechanical systems (heating and cooling). She is also outstanding due to the fact that she will be receiving both her Bachelors degree and her Masters at the same time when she graduates, due to the program she is in.

Tiffany isn't one to wait around so she began getting involved right away. Looking for activities relating to her studies, she became a member of Architectural Engineering Institute, or AEI. Her involvement with the group still continues today.

She started out living in Moore Hall. There she began learning about the residence hall system and what it had to offer. She started out by getting her feet wet. By the second semester, she was really looking for new ways to get involved. Living on the 7th Floor, she was selected by her fellow floor mates to serve as their Floor Representative for the Moore Hall Governing Board. She was able to serve as a voice for the entire floor and she did a great job with it.



Moving On Up

For Tiffany's second year at K-State, she continued to live in Moore Hall. Tiffany had really enjoyed being on HGB and having the opportunity to serve residents her freshman year. In fact, she enjoyed HGB so much that she became the HGB Treasurer. This put her in an Executive Board role, making the time commitment larger and the responsibility much higher. But this of course did not faze Tiffany. She took the position head on and did a great job overseeing the budget and spending for the entire building.

In addition to her treasurer responsibilities, Tiffany also served on the Open House Committee for Moore Hall as the committee chair. Open House is a busy time for the halls as several visitors, alumni, and prospective students are on campus visiting. Tiffany organized the events for the day and ensured that everything ran smoothly.

Tiffany also worked as a Community Assistant for the hall's front desk. There she served residents by answering questions, taking phone calls, and checking out room keys. It was an important job with a lot of duties and she fulfilled them all with a positive attitude.

Participating so much in HGB really helped Tiffany get fired up about being a part of Housing and Dining. She felt that she wanted to continue her involvement so she decided to apply to become a Resident Assistant for her junior year. Imagine her excitement when she found out that she was hired as a RA in Goodnow Hall for 2002-2003!



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“Moore Hall was a special time for Tiffany when we both were on HGB together. She was the treasurer and I was the president. There were many late nights, many laughs, and many struggles, but in the end, all that hard work paid off in receiving Hall of the Year. We were a part of the ‘Exec. of the Executive Board’ in Moore Hall. We put together the Texas Markers at some random time in the middle of the night at the Moore Hall front desk. We made posters late at night and even made fun of her ever-changing crushes along the way (which for some I was glad they didn’t work out!). The funny thing was that in her first year, I really wasn’t sure she’d come back to live on campus during her sophomore year. Well, I’m really glad she did, and I think she made the right choice. I know she made the right choice and has changed many other students’ lives since then.

-Craig Wanklyn (Jardine Resident Assistant)

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First Year Resident Assistant

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“Tiffany was my RA my second year in Goodnow. She was always very concerned with our wellbeing but was also a lot of fun. I remember a few times when Tiffany would bring her TV and VCR from her room into the lobby and have a 5th Floor Movie Night. Although she was my RA my sophomore year, I know that I can still count on her for support, two years later. Tiff wasn’t just our RA. She was a friend too. She was there for the big things like doing badly on a test, but she was also there for the fun things. Tiff sat with us at football games, went to Sunday night dinners with us, and so much more. Tiffany was an amazing RA.”

-Alexa Passman (Former Resident)

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Tiffany was really excited to be working as a RA her junior year. She had a lot of new and innovative ideas that she wanted to promote both on her floor and in the hall in general. She served on the 5th Floor that year with Justin Mencl.

Tiffany really had a strong desire to provide fun and educational programs for her floor. She was a very active RA and offered numerous programs. One example was Green Eggs and Ham for Dr. Seuss’ Birthday. She made green eggs and ham and served them to her residents and also read Dr. Seuss books. It was an interesting program that brought back childhood memories for everyone.

Another program was Duct Tape 101. This program centered on the many uses of duct tape. There were two activities involved. One activity involved trying to catch Skittles candy on the tape. Residents rushed to have as many sticks as possible. The other activity involved building a tower with duct tape and pencils. Residents were trying to build the tower as tall as they could. This program was fun for everyone who joined in and it added an element of friendly competition.

Tiffany is a sports fan so when the Super Bowl game was coming up, she thought it would be a good idea to host a Super Bowl Party. The party involved watching the game and enjoying snacks as they cheered on their favorite team. Many residents enjoyed the opportunity to relax and see the game with a crowd of people.

In order to promote a strong floor community, Tiffany really wanted her residents to know each other. She decided to have a Roommate Game, where roommate pairs would compete against other pairs to see who knew each other best. It was similar to the dating game and it was entertaining for everyone to see how much or how little they knew about each other.

To promote success and dedication to academics, Tiffany gave out Academic Stars. These were stars that had a resident's name on them. The stars were handed out for doing well academically. These stars motivated residents to go to class and study often.

A group activity that was presented by Tiffany and some other staff members was Chugging at Longhorns. This program taught residents alcohol awareness issues and was very effective in displaying the dangers of alcohol abuse.

While all of the programs offered by Tiffany her first year were spectacular, one shined brighter than the rest. Tiffany had been doing some research when she found an activity called the Wall Project. The Wall Project was started at the University of Utah. It consisted of building a cement wall on campus and allowing students to paint words or symbols of discrimination, hatred, and prejudice. The wall remained up for awhile and was then torn down to represent tearing down those symbols and words. Tiffany thought this was a great idea and she really wanted to make it happen at K-State. Most would think that this was too large of an undertaking but Tiffany was determined to have an activity as powerful and meaningful as this one happen in Manhattan.

She decided to talk to the Multicultural Assistants in the halls to enlist their help. Of course they thought that it was a great idea and were eager to aid such an amazing program and make it happen. Tiffany did an incredible amount of research to find out where the wall could be built, who could build it, costs, available dates, etc. The workload to put on such a large-scale activity was immense, but Tiffany did not back down. She had passion to help students and her vision could not be deterred. Monetarily, she knew that she needed aid from outside sources. She went to the various Hall Governing Boards and requested funds

“Tiffany Happer is one of those people that the residence halls are so dearly fortunate to have. From her first months serving on the Moore Hall Governing Board to her concluding years as a Resident Assistant in Goodnow, she has exemplified what it means to selflessly serve. The countless hours, immeasurable effort, and the unmatched energy she has poured into the residence halls, its programs, and its residents, is truly an amazing accomplishment.”
-Justin Mencl (Former Staff Partner 2003)

from them. She also wrote up a funding request form for the Association of Residence Halls. Because it she had such a large request, she really had to present a strong presentation about the program and the benefits it would bring to K-State. She did just that and gained her major monetary supporters. With that behind her, she continued planning K-State's version of the Wall Project.



It was decided that the Wall Project would last for a week. This week would be titled End Discrimination Week. The wall was to be built at the beginning of the week. Tiffany had to find numerous volunteers to sit at the wall site every single hour of the day in order to combat the possibility of vandalism. This was a difficult task but she managed to find someone to cover every single time. Many groups decided to go out together and have an enjoyable experience.

Tiffany also secured items such as t-shirts that had the quote, "We must become the change we wish to see in the world", by Mohandas Ghandi. Many people chose to purchase these shirts in support of the event.

The actual week lasted from April 7th-11th. The wall was built in the Hay-Moore lawn by the K-State Student Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America. As soon as the wall was completed, paint and brushes were supplied for people to begin painting. On the 7th, there was an activity called "Strike Out". On the 8th, acclaimed speaker Preacher Moss came to Forum Hall and presented a moving speech about diversity. On the 9th, there was a session about the Matthew Shepard story. This was an eye opening presentation on the tragic story of Matthew Shepard and what happened to him due to his sexual orientation.

Then on the 10th, everyone was invited to help tear the wall down. Ropes were attached to the wall strategically so that the force of people pulling on the ropes would break down the wall. Numerous people came out for this powerful event. Throughout the week, the wall had accumulated hundreds of words and symbols of hatred. Seeing it torn down was very symbolic and emotional for many. It was a sign that there are students at K-State who want to create a better world for tomorrow and it was all thanks to Tiffany's efforts. The week was a huge success and drew attention from the entire campus community. It was a landmark for K-State and likely would never had happened had it not been for Tiffany's passion to make a difference.

Still Working Hard

After so many large projects her junior year, it would make sense for Tiffany to take it easy the next year. Of course, Tiffany had no such intentions. She served on the 5th Floor again with Richard Brusk.

She decided to further her academic involvements by joining two more organizations. The first was the Illuminated Engineering Society. The other was the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers. She still continues her involvement in both of these organizations today as well.

Tiffany also wanted to continue her work as an outstanding resident assistant. She brainstormed new ideas for programs and implemented them along with some from the year previous. One program was about student athletes. Nick Leckey, center for the K-State football team, came and talked about his experiences as a student athlete. This program was really unique and interesting for everyone.

Another successful program was Mocktails/Drunk Driving With Golf Carts and Beer Goggles. Tiffany invited Campus Police Officer Harrison to come and talk about the seriousness of drunk driving. Residents were given the chance to drive a golf cart while wearing goggles that impair your vision similar to the way drinking does. They were also given sobriety tests to see how they performed with them. It was an interactive and impactful activity for all.



Tiffany also had a program called Mary Kay Holiday Open House. She invited a Mary Kay representative to come and show fun holiday ideas to the residents. Everyone was given the opportunity to try their Silk Hands lotion and the people who came left with great gift ideas for family and friends.

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“Tiff always amazes me with her never ending ideas. Even better, she is always excited about them as well! She's always positive about her commitments and has an obvious desire to know her residents. It has definitely been a privilege working with her and learning from her example.”

-Carolyn Wenzel (Current Goodnow Resident Assistant)



Tiffany also presented 101 Ways to Make Love Without Doing It. She went around asking for suggestions from fellow staff members and student leaders in the hall. Then she compiled them all and turned it into a bulletin board. Then she printed out the list and had residents make Valentine's Day crafts and cards for their loved ones.

In addition, Tiffany had a creative fun activity where residents could come and make coasters out of astro-turf. They were also given paint and paint markers so they could make fake flowers as well.

Tiffany also began a "Friends, Football, and Franks" activity. On the day of the K-State vs. Nebraska football game, Tiffany hosted a party to watch the game on the big screen. She used a projector to show it on the wall, so many people could easily see. She also had grilled hot dogs, nachos, and brownies for everyone to eat during the game. This really enticed residents to come out into the lobby and enjoy the big match-up together.

Tiffany also extended her campus involvement by joining the National Residence Hall Honorary. She served as the treasurer for the group and was an important member throughout the year. She participated in several NRHH events, including as a team member for Relay for Life.

Tiffany was so active, she was not only named the campus Resident Assistant of the Month for November, she was also selected as Goodnow's Resident Assistant of the Year nominee.



End With A Bang

For Tiffany's third and last year as an RA in Goodnow Hall, she has continued her legacy of excellence. This year she moved down to the Lower Terrace suites. Serving suite residents can be a difficult task since they aren't walking through the halls as often as students who share a communal bathroom. However, she has successfully dealt with that change. She has offered several programs once again, including another football watch party, a snack time for finals activity, pizza party in the lower terrace, and a group activity called I Know What You Did Last Night.

I Know What You Did Last Night was an intensive program planned by Tiffany and three other staff members. It was a week-long activity where residents who had signed up in advance received a note in their mailbox each day. The notes described a character that they were "playing" for the week. Each note described the activities of the person the night before. The situations dealt with common college issues such as binge drinking, rape, relationship problems, etc. The participants were linked to other participants through what their character had done the night before. At the end of the week, all participants were invited to Sunday dinner, where they were given nametags stating who their character was. Residents got to see who they were linked to and also learned a lot about how actions can affect so many other people. This program was incredibly successful and is nominated as Goodnow's Program of the Year.



“With all that Tiffany is involved with, it is amazing to see how she remains dedicated to and enthusiastic about all of her commitments and puts the extra effort into everything she does. Tiffany is definitely a staff member that others look to for knowledge about the job, as well as simple words of advice.”

-Amanda Mock (Assistant Residence Life Coordinator)



Tiffany has also decided to present the End Discrimination Week/The Wall Project. This year, she requested funding from the Student Governing Association's Diversity Programming Committee. This group allocates money to outstanding diversity-related programs. Tiffany's idea was widely supported and received funding from them. This year she will be doing many things the same in regards to the wall, but is also bringing in a speaker named Vernon Wall. It is sure to be a very successful program just as it was previously.

Tiffany also stayed busy this year working on the All-University Homecoming Committee. On this committee, Tiffany worked to create new programs during homecoming week as well as promote those activities in the halls.

She has also been serving as the secretary for the National Residence Hall Honorary. Every week she is responsible for attending meetings and writing accurate meeting minutes. She then sends them out over the group list-serv to keep members updated.

Tiffany has not let the fact that this is her last full year at K-State hold her back in any way. She continues to do great things every day, both on campus and in the halls. She has never been afraid to give of herself and has contributed an unbelievable amount to this university.



Quotes

"Tiffany is a wonderful person to work with on a staff. She does a great job at balancing all her commitments and still finding time to hang out with residents and staff."

-Aaryn Clark (Current Goodnow Resident Assistant)

"Tiff has contributed so much to the community of Goodnow Hall! She is often seen at HGB meetings offering feedback to the student leaders of the hall and lending a hand whenever he can. Her creative ideas that she brings to the hall have really been a positive asset. Her commitment to the residence halls as a RA is unbelievable. Not only is Tiff a wonderful staff member, but she is also a wonderful person. She always offers a smile when I see her, and I am thankful to have worked with her."

-Carolyn Denney (Current Goodnow Resident Assistant)

"I first knew Tiffany as my RA my sophomore year in Goodnow Hall. Since then she has become an inspiration and a friend. Tiffany is part of the reason that I became an RA. She put forth a lot of energy into her job and let us know that she truly cared. Her hard work made me want to have the same effect on someone else, so I applied to be an RA. Tiffany has always been there, whether it be to complain about classes, give me advice, or loan me textbooks!"

-Julia Holman (Current West Resident Assistant)

"Tiffany Happer has been an inspiration to all of us. From her involvement with NRHH, being an RA in Goodnow Hall for three years, and coming up with programs that make all of us think, Tiffany has done it all. She is an amazing person whose energy level can be matched by no one. She always has a smile on her face and loves doing what she does. She is an amazing person who gives more to others than to herself."

-Jeff Olin (Former Haymaker Assistant Residence Life Coordinator)

"I'm pretty sure that throughout some point and time in my college career, I can say that I have seen Tiffany every hour of that day. Yep, that's kind of hard to imagine but it's really true. Tiffany and I have seemed to do everything together. She was in Moore...I was in Moore. She was on staff in Goodnow...I was on staff in Goodnow. She's an Architectural Engineering major...I'm an Architectural Engineering major. She's a 5th year student...I'm a 5th year student. I guess that gives me a fairly good perspective just on what she has accomplished in her time living on campus at K-State. Tiff, T-Hap, or any other name you'd like to call her is a person you can always count on. There's never a time when she isn't there for support. I know I've called her at all hours of the day not only to talk about hall stuff, RA stuff, staff stuff, or class stuff, but just personal stuff. I can guarantee that there were many times when we both frustrated each other, but in the end, we realized that it was only for the better because we both wanted things to be perfect. Tiffany challenges people to take the extra step that makes them that much better. Is it going to be a challenge to see Tiff leave and graduate a little bit earlier than myself? I can't seem to imagine what a class or a semester will be like without Tiffany somewhere. But, I will always have the ability to look back in the past and remember everything we have accomplished. Tiffany has grown a whole lot. Tiffany has also helped me grow a whole lot. I wouldn't do some of the things I do today if Tiff hadn't been there along the way. Tiffany is an amazing person. I am a lucky person to have witnessed, been a part of her journey, and overall been her friend throughout her college career."

-Craig Wanklyn (Jardine Resident Assistant)

Essay

Tiffany Happer is incredibly worthy of receiving the Outstanding Service Award. Over her past five years living, working, and serving at K-State, Tiffany has made a difference in countless ways. She has not been afraid to take a stand or to change things for the better. Her involvements have stretched across several different areas, but each has received her full work ethic and energy.

In the halls, she was a student leader working on a hall governing board. She also has devoted three years to hundreds of people known as residents. Every day she would take time to brighten their days and ensure that they were living in a fun and positive environment. She has been a remarkable resident assistant and has impacted the way current staff members do their job by being a role model of what works and what a strong RA does.

Academically, Tiffany has succeeded in an incredibly difficult field, earning awards and making a name for herself. She has participated in several field-related organizations and has strived to be a well-rounded person.

Tiffany has also been involved on a campus-wide level. Her Writing on the Wall Project received attention from every club and organization on campus, not just the residence halls. She started an incredibly worthwhile and needed activity on campus that paved the way for other student groups to see that their goals can happen if you work hard enough. This project has helped put positive light on the residence hall system and gained respect for its employees and staff.

Tiffany has been devoted to numerous projects and activities, but her devotion to those around her is what is most striking. Tiffany has a genuinely friendly personality that makes her approachable. She is happiest when helping others and is always willing to aid someone or provide advice. Despite the fact that Tiffany does know an awful lot, she is still open-minded and willing to look past what is there to see what could be. She has offered more to this university, campus, and the residence halls than most could even dream of. She is a true leader who has left footprints that will always be remembered.