

Shasta E. Cullen

123 Cougar Village, Houston, TX 77020 ▪ 713-743-5100 ▪ shasta.cullen@uh.edu

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University of Houston
4800 Calhoun Road
Houston, TX 77004

Dear SSOE Committee,

My name is Shasta E. Cullen, and I am a senior at the University of Houston. I am writing to express interest in highlighting the skills for the SSOE Leadership Seal. My experience as an executive leader over the Center for Diversity and Inclusion's (CDI) ambassador team aided in my development of these specific skills.

- **Navigation of Organizational Culture.** As the executive leader of the ambassador team, I have the opportunity to work with 6 other leaders to define the organizations' mission and values while determining how that relates to the services and events that we provide to students. The leadership team for the ambassador program is dedicated to including diverse perspectives as we make decisions and set up committees. It was important that we understood ourselves, while also respecting the differences of others.
- **Team Leadership.** It is important for me to empower ambassadors in the CDI organization. I do this by giving other leaders and ambassadors the opportunity to take the lead on different projects or events. It is my philosophy that each ambassador has something to offer to our organization. Everyone's ideas and contributions are valued, encouraged, and affirmed in our shared approach to leadership.
- **Collaboration.** During LGBTQ History Month, CDI and Gamma Rho Lambda collaborated on hosting a panel of alumni who identify LGBTQ. I set up an initial meeting with the Gamma Rho Lambda president to discuss how we could delegate the work between both the Gamma Rho Lambda officers and the ambassadors. Our initial meeting helped us come up with goals and a timeline. Because of our collaboration and organization, our clubs were able to recruit 10 alumni to speak to a group of 50 students.
- **Meaningful Relationship.** As a Resident Assistant in Cougar Place, I have the chance to get to know each of my residents individually. I meet with each person on my floor to provide a time to build that relationship and ask them where they are from, their majors, and see what they are looking forward to at the University. I want to make sure that they have a positive experience and find ways that I can help them get involved. I also want to build trust with each of them so they can come to me if they ever need anything, during good and bad times.

Thank you for reviewing my application for the SSOE Leadership Seal. If you need any additional information please feel free to contact me at 713-743-5100.

With Cougar Pride,

Shasta E. Cullen