

Monday, May 1, 2017

Dear Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma,

Greetings in the bond of service. It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my letter of intent to run for the position of Tau Beta Sigma National Vice President for Special Projects. I can hardly believe that it has been two years since I was elected as your National Vice President for Communication and Recognition. The experience has truly been humbling and has proven to be rewarding in ways that I had not expected, yet has suitably prepared me to take the next step in my journey through Tau Beta Sigma.

Coming into this biennium, I had a strong idea of what the core responsibilities of this position would entail and I believe I have satisfactorily maintained each of them. These responsibilities have included: Taking and distributing the minutes of all National Council meetings, reviewing and making recommendations for all TBS Scholarship and Award applications received, effectively keeping the lines of communication moving on each level of the sorority, contributing articles to our national publication *The Podium*, promoting the initiatives of the sorority through maintaining all of our social media handles and working with the other members of the council to effectively meet our goals while governing the business of the sorority.

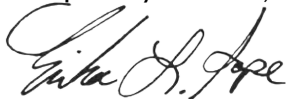
Along the way, as I worked to acclimate myself to my role on the council, there were a few challenges that arose, which created work beyond the fundamental tasks of the NVPCR. I wholeheartedly believe that I, with the assistance of many individuals, have been able to meet many of those challenges head on and this has resulted in points of success that can be built upon in the future. Such items include: Moving all TBS Student Chats to a video conferencing format, the creation of the Tau Beta Tuesday Newsletter and reviewing each of the TBS Awards for relevancy versus participation. I was also able to launch the official Tau Beta Sigma Instagram handle and the crowning achievement for this biennium was working with our National Publications Manager Robert Bratcher, to oversee the launch of a newly designed, user friendly national website for Tau Beta Sigma. It has been a great biennium and now it is time to look towards the future.

As the National VPCR, I have had the chance to work alongside our current National VPSP Adrienne Rall through our collaboration on the "13 Days of TBS" celebration and have had a first-hand look at the development of the two new National Programs that she will be introducing. I have also had the chance to be very hands on with some of the content that is on our "4Gr8rBands" YouTube Channel by producing some of the videos that are featured there. The YouTube Channel is housed under the duties of the VPSP and if elected, I will continue to work on updating and promoting the content of the channel. The Focus On Five Campaign is still going strong and this is something that must continue. It is my goal to be able to attach new challenges to some of the stripe and lyre pieces in order to include TBS recognition opportunities and to bring more music into our activities. One significant VPSP aspiration that I would like to explore, is the creation and implementation of a month long celebration of the Women in Music Program. My current occupation working as the Musical Arts Coordinator for the Department of Music at Rhodes Colleges has put me in a unique position to make connections in the music world with women in a variety of music professions and I have already spoken to a few who have shown an interest in taking part in our national program.

As I continue to think about all of the things that I'd like to bring to this office, my mind continually comes back to you, the active student and the role you play in shaping the duties of the National VPSP. The promotion of our TBS National Programs is at the core of what the National VPSP is responsible for and our programs exist to help us identify our mission and reasons for existence. The success of our programming relies on the buy in from our active students. Without that commitment, our programs won't mean anything and our mission would be lost. The partnership of student ownership and TBS National Programs is an important one. It is a relationship that I would like to continue to cultivate through hearing your ideas and allowing you to lead them. I look forward to reading about the ideas proposed in the TBS Programs Committee Report at National Convention 2017 and working to execute them during the next biennium.

I am excited about the chance to continue my service to the sorority and I hope I have instilled in you a sense of confidence in knowing that my dedication to the ideals of the sorority are what make me a worthy candidate for this position. I thank you in advance for your consideration as you work to choose the next Vice President for Special Projects of Tau Beta Sigma!

Respectfully Submitted,



Erika L. Pope
National Vice President for Communication & Recognition
Tau Beta Sigma Life Member #2610
Cell: [501.416.1191](tel:501.416.1191) | tbsigma.org





Résumé for Erika L. Pope

3236 Spring Grove Circle, Memphis, TN 38119 | 501-416-1191 | erikapope@tbsigma.org

Professional Background

December 2016 – Present

Rhodes College – Memphis, TN
Musical Arts Coordinator

- Manages the department schedule and provides advanced clerical and administrative support for the Department of Music.
- Maintains calendar of events for the music department faculty and students. Provides support for faculty and student concerts and recitals including: coordinating auditions, scheduling venues for rehearsals and performances, coordinating piano tunings, scheduling event recordings, overseeing physical set up, and planning travel for guests as necessary.
- Plans special events as necessary.
- Maintains faculty teaching schedules and student rolls for all applied classes. Maintains current files of curriculum vitae and syllabi, distributes and tabulates evaluations for applied classes and ensembles.
- Collects data for and assists with internal and external reports.
- Serves as liaison with Communications to prepare printed posters, programs, and calendars.
- Assists with the hiring of part-time instructors. Hires, trains, and supervises student workers in the music department.
- Serves as a liaison with Physical Plant and Campus Safety including providing student access lists and notification of events to Campus Safety, and assures proper maintenance of public areas in music department through work orders to Physical Plant.

July, 2014 – December 2016

Girl Scouts of Central Texas & Girl Scouts Heart of the South – College Station, TX/ Memphis, TN
Membership Development Executive

- Build Membership Base.
- Develop and implement strategies towards retention and membership growth.
- Maintain and develop community collaborations.
- Direct and supervise volunteers and contract staff.
- Identify and appoint volunteers appropriate for directing/growing area teams.
- Increase ethnic membership numbers to match or exceed population ratios.
- Attend assigned meetings regularly; work as a member of various teams.
- Support development fund through identification of in-kind or grant resources.
- Recruit, appoint, train, supervise and evaluate team members.
- Strive continuously for positive and meaningful team relationships.
- Ensure assignments are planned, budgeted, and carried out within approved Council goals, objectives, and standards.

Educational Background

- Attended Henderson State University – Arkadelphia, AR
- Majored in Mass Media, with a focus in Radio Broadcasting; Minor in Music
- Graduated in December 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Media

Tau Beta Sigma Background

Chapter Participation:

- Initiated into the Theta Theta Chapter (Henderson State) on October 25, 1999
- Community Service Chair (2000-2001)
- Vice-President (2001-2002)
- President (2002-2005)

District Participation:

- Attended every Southwest District Convention since 2000, with the exception of one.
- Served as Southwest District Vice President for Colonization & Membership (2005-2006)
- Served on the Steering Committee for the TBS District Alumni Group (2008-2009)
- Served as Colony Advisor & Installing Officer for Gamma Eta Chapter, Mississippi Valley State University, February 2009
- Served as the Southwest District Counselor of Tau Beta Sigma (2009-2015)
- Travelled across the Southwest District while serving as the Counselor and visited almost all of the 37 SWD Chapters over a 5-year period.
- Oversaw a 90% success rate in SWD Chapters completing all national paperwork on-time.
- Served as installing officer for the Epsilon Psi Chapter, Prairie View A&M University (2015)
- Attended Northeast District Convention 2016
 - Advised the Jurisdiction Committee
- Midwest District Convention 2016 & 2017
 - Advised the Membership Committee (2016 & 2017)
- North Central District Convention 2017
 - Advised the Sisterhood & Spirit Committee

National Participation:

- Attended every meeting of the National Convention since 2003.
- Charter Member of the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association (2007)
- Served as Co-Advisor for the Program Committee (2013)
- Served as Co-Advisor for the Colonization & Membership Committee (2009, 2011 & 2015)
- Co-Coordinator for the National Convention *Ritual of Excellence* (2011 & 2013)
- Contributor for the TBS Chapter Field Representative Program ad hoc committee (2015)
- TBS National Vice President for Communication & Recognition (2015-Present)

Current Memberships

- Life Member, Tau Beta Sigma (2007)
- Life Member, Kappa Kappa Psi (2016)
- Honorary Member of seven local TBS Chapters and two district TBS Chapters (SWD & MWD)

Sorority Achievements:

- Presented numerous educational workshops at district and national meetings since 2006.
- Created the *Tau Beta Tuesday Newsletter*
- Launched the official Instagram handle for Tau Beta Sigma
- Implemented a new video conferencing method for the national TBS Student Chats
- Produced the 2017 National Council Announcements Video for District Conventions
- Oversaw the redesigning and launch of the sorority's national website, tbsigma.org



April 28, 2017

To the National Leadership of Tau Beta Sigma,

It is my pleasure to recommend Erika Pope for the office of National Vice President for Special Projects. Within my time of district leadership, Ms. Pope showed a vested interest in the opinion of active members of the Sorority, and sought our input on several Tau Beta Sigma projects. For example, at the 2016 National Leadership Conference at Oklahoma State University, she involved the district secretaries and treasurers on the modification of the Tau Beta Sigma website.

As a district officer, having the ability to give input on certain aspects of national programs and projects means something, and gave me a feeling of accomplishment that I'm sure Ms. Pope would pass on to future district Vice Presidents of Special Projects as the National equivalent.

Within her time as National Vice President of Communication and Recognition, Ms. Pope has consistently fulfilled the goals she set for herself at the 2015 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Throughout the biennium, we have seen Ms. Pope successfully move the TBS Student Chats from a typed chat to a video conference format, launch the Tau Beta Tuesday Newsletter, work with National Publications Manager Robert Bratcher to launch a newly designed tbsigma.org, helped generate more viewership to the 4Gr8rBands YouTube Channel, and write an article for every edition of The Podium.

Ms. Pope has also thrown herself into the communication part of her current position. Over the last two years, we have seen a substantial growth in the Sorority's social media presence, especially in the form of campaigns, shoutouts, and spotlights. This has created an incentive for chapters to get their paperwork submitted on time, complete district and national projects, and even a chance to be showcased on the Tau Beta Sigma website.

Combine this with not only her extensive Tau Beta Sigma résumé, but professional résumé as well, and I'm sure they speak volumes on her ability to succeed within the office of National Vice President for Special Projects.

Ms. Pope's positive attitude and "stick-with-it-ness" approach to all things Tau Beta Sigma can only be an asset to the National Leadership team and thusly, the Sorority as a whole.

Kindly submitted,


(205) 412-2252

Tau Beta Sigma - Eta Beta

University of North Alabama

2016 - 2017 SED Vice President of Special Projects / Webmaster

Life Member #3295

April 28, 2017

Nominations Committee
Tau Beta Sigma National Convention Delegates
National Convention, 2017

Dear Members of the Nominations Committee,

I am delighted to recommend Erika Pope for the office of National Vice President for Special Projects. Erika has demonstrated a dedicated passion for growing Tau Beta Sigma and leading the organization forward with class, dignity, perseverance, and skill – I believe this next step will show her talents in their best light yet.

I knew Erika as a student leader in the Southwest District. When the time came, I watched her take on the SWD Counselor role and step in to her mentor's shoes. She committed herself to the role and made it her own by personally visiting most every chapter in the SWD, speaking with members individually and giving workshops, assisting chapters on disciplinary status, and becoming a mentor to hundreds of sisters in her own right.

I was thrilled when I learned that she wanted to run for National Vice President for Communication and Recognition in 2015. Since attaining this role she has demonstrated a unique understanding of the operation of the Sorority while keeping the cornerstone tenants of the Sisterhood. She built projects to connect members with the national council and biennium goals. She asked insightful questions that led to the creation of video and voice conferencing for TBS Student Chats instead of the original typed-chat format. She generated viewership to the 4Gr8rBands YouTube Channel by conducting interviews with active students and creating relevant announcement material for award recognition and special events. Erika has also launched a new publication, Tau Beta Tuesday Newsletter, to keep members informed and connected each month. Notably, she dug into a role that requires ingesting a lot of information in a very short time, and has learned the policies and methods that govern the work of the National Chapter. She has travelled widely in this role to continue connecting with individual members and developing friendships...the only real way to keep members invested in our organization's future and inspire them to stay involved and lead in their turn.

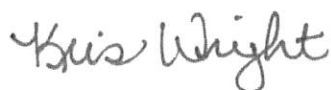
Erika has now set her sights on becoming the next Vice President for Special Projects, a role in which I believe she will excel. She will continue to grow the Focus on Five campaign to highlight member involvement, work to create a special month of focus around the Women in Music Speaker Series, continue to increase content and viewership to the YouTube Channel, and work alongside the other National officers to build a cohesive and structured approach to implementing our National Programs over the next two years.

Erika is professional, kind, and dedicated to guiding the Sorority through the next biennium. Her understanding of our members from across the country sets her apart. Her continued passion for music performance makes her an invaluable member of the national council as she helps keep the focus on music with insight into the music industry. All this awesome wrapped in a kick-ass drummer package! We are lucky to have her as a Sister, and fortunate that she pours her time and talent into moving our Sorority into a successful future.

I recommend her for the NVPSP role whole-heartedly, and I encourage each of you to take time to get acquainted with her and her goals for our National leadership. I feel privileged to know her and I look forward to watching her continue to build her own legacy of leadership in Tau Beta Sigma. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for more information about Erika.

Thank you for your consideration.

In the Bond,



Kris Wright, Life Member
Past member TBS Board of Trustees
Past WD Counselor
Omega Chapter



Tau Beta Sigma
2017 National Committee on Nominations
Stillwater, OK

KKΨ

Eric B. Morson
Board of Trustees

April 28, 2017

Re: Erika L. Pope for National Vice President for Special Projects
Letter of Recommendation

My Sisters,

It is an honor and a privilege to offer this letter of recommendation on behalf of Sister Erika L. Pope, as she seeks to become our next Vice President for Special Projects.

As the word communication is often overused to the point of cliché, I prefer the term "connection". It far better describes Erika's commitment to a Sisterhood of actives and National Leadership inextricably woven together as we pursue our common goals. While fearlessly commanding TBS's multi-platform social media presence, she did more than merely send out messages and bulletins, she found new and personal ways to strengthen these connections. Migrating the TBS Student Chats to video, creating the Tau Beta Tuesday Newsletter, her part in the new TBS website design, her plan to add challenges to the Focus on Five Challenge, and her review of the Sorority's entire awards program are a few examples of the initiatives still to come.

I am particularly excited by her plan to expand the Women in Music Program to a month-long celebration. Erika's current job puts her in the best position of her career to take on this challenge.

I would be remiss if I didn't share how impressed I am by the love Erika has for TBS and equally, how Sisters nationwide connect with her so easily. To have an award named for you as a result of showing leadership skills befitting the honor, and her impressive tenure as SWD Counselor stand as testaments to why Tau Beta Sigma needs Erika Pope to continue serving on our National Council.

Her quote, "the partnership of student ownership and TBS National Programs is an important one", stands out for its simplicity and its power. Erika lives this and all the values of TBS, always seeking that personal connection in every effort she undertakes. That so many believe in her proves the point.

I am thrilled to support my friend, Sister, fellow DJ, and musician Erika in her candidacy, and have complete confidence in her ability to be an outstanding VP for Special Projects. I am available to speak if you have any questions.

Always in the bond,



Eric B. Morson

Kappa Kappa Psi, Board of Trustees
TBS Honorary Member, Northeast District & Gamma Kappa Chapter
TBS Life Member #2709
KKPsi Life Member #3284

KAPPA KAPPA PSI



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SCHOOLWIDE TITLE I

April 28, 2017

Letter of Recommendation for Erika Pope
Candidate for the office of Vice President of Special Projects
Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority

Dear Nominations Committee,

It is my distinct honor to write a letter of highest recommendation for Erika Pope for the office of Vice President of Special Projects.

Ms. Pope has distinguished herself as a competent, organized and passionate leader, both in her professional life as well as in her roles in the Sorority.

As a young professional, Ms. Pope has handled the multi-faceted role of managing a movie theatre, both overseeing the day-to-day operations, as well as supervising and managing staff, and coordinating promotional materials. Following that role, Ms. Pope was honored to serve the Girls Scouts of America, and during her tenure as Membership Development Executive, increased retention and new membership. She also used her strong skills of collaboration by working with more than five counties in the state of Texas. Currently, she is pairing her management and collaboration skills with her passion for music education, serving as the Musical Arts Coordinator for Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. In this position she is developing an increased collaborative nature of organizing and prioritizing the Department's activities, again, including supervision of students and coordinating professional staff.

These traits alone would qualify her for the rigor of the position of National Vice President for Special Projects. As strong as she is in these areas, these are not the areas I believe are her strongest assets for our sorority. Erika Pope is a stand-out member of Tau Beta Sigma. Even during her undergraduate years, Ms. Pope won the devotion and following of her peers, as evidenced by her serving as chapter and district officer for several years. After graduation, still dedicated to the Sorority, she was appointed as the Southwest District Counselor. I have had the opportunity on several occasions to see her in action with the students. She encourages independence, nurtures initiative, all the while maintaining a supportive nature of encouragement and guidance. Her proven skills in these areas are exactly what we look for in our national leadership – courage to set goals and objectives, sisterhood to support others and herself to achieve them. During her time as National Vice President for Communication and Recognition, she has elevated the status of communication among and with our active members. She sets high standards for the students and for herself, and has developed several exemplary projects.

As you know, I have had the privilege of knowing many sisters in our bond. I have been watching Erika for several years now, and believe she is ready for the position of National Vice President for Special Projects, and indeed, on the trajectory for further leadership in our organization. She is approachable, creative, humble, ethical, and a good friend to many.

I recommend Ms. Pope with my highest esteem and regard. If you have any questions, I hope you will contact me. I could say so much more.

Cathy Miles 443.388.6096

Cathy Miles
Life Member, Epsilon Omega Chapter, Tau Beta Sigma

The Vision of Abbottston Elementary School is to equip all students with the ability to achieve at high levels, both academically and socially, in order to become college and career ready. We accomplish this by knowing our students well and by including all stakeholders to provide high quality instruction and a nurturing community where children feel safe, productive and successful.



Rhodes College

—1848—

April 28, 2017

Dear Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma,

It is my privilege to recommend Erika Pope for Tau Beta Sigma National Vice President for Special Projects. I have read the job description and I am certain that Erika is a perfect fit for it. I have known Erika since December and I am extremely impressed with her abilities and her energy! This past fall we hired Erika as the Musical Arts Coordinator at Rhodes College and we have been so very pleased with her hard work in that position. Here at Rhodes College I am coordinator of the voice division and I served as Chair of the Department of Music when Erika was hired. Erika is certainly one of the most energetic and hard-working people I have ever known and I am certain she can accomplish, without complaint, the many duties you have listed in your job description for VP for Special Projects.

The first time I met Erika I became aware of her dedication to Tau Beta Sigma. She is loyal and proud of the sorority and that is obvious when she speaks about her many TBS conferences and meetings with students in the sorority. She loves this organization. Beyond her affection for TBS, Erika brings knowledge about its inner workings and she has the desire to improve the organization and to develop as a giving person within it. Her greatest qualities are tolerance, courage, strength of mind and body, and cheerfulness about the physical work she constantly undertakes and the long hours she puts into her work.

At Rhodes College Erika, as Musical Arts Coordinator for the Department of Music, manages many faculty schedules, cares for the use of the entire Music building and any concerts that take place off site, supervises all music student workers, manages student instrumental needs, oversees publicity and printed programs for 50+ concerts and recitals each year, and frequently works with the college's physical plant and event planning offices. Erika's understanding of music and musicians is so valuable to Rhodes College and this department. She is always in motion and I'm not sure she actually sleeps!

Erika has a great rapport with students and student workers by being helpful yet clear about directions. One student worker said, "She is very serious about getting the job done, but she makes it enjoyable with her fun personality so I never mind having to move 50 chairs or set up a room because I know that Erika will help. She is a great supervisor." Through all her work with students and faculty Erika appears unflappable during the many events and numerous emergencies that our musicians have on concert days or teaching days. She understands the needs, eccentricities, and egos of faculty and guest musicians.

I highly recommend Erika Pope, without any reservations, for this very important office of National Vice President for Special Projects for the fine organization of Tau Beta Sigma.

Sincerely,

Carole C. Blankenship, D.M.A.

Elizabeth G. Daughdrill Chair in the Fine Arts
Associate Professor of Music, Rhodes College
901-569-3807