

# Dawn Marie Farmer, Ph.D.

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April 14, 2015

Dear Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma:

The Board of Trustees plays an integral role in the development and future of Tau Beta Sigma. The Sisters who serve on the Board commit to developing strategies and plans to ensure a strong future for our national organization, which in turn impacts our local chapters and band programs. As someone who has served in a national leadership position within the Sorority for nine years and as a college band director and music education professor, I present myself as a candidate for a Trustee position on the Board of Tau Beta Sigma. I feel that my experience and roles within the Sorority and my professional life provide me with a skill set and background that can contribute to Tau Beta Sigma in ways that are essential for our continued success and longevity.

As a Life Member of Tau Beta Sigma, I have held multiple roles within the organization that allow me a wide breadth of knowledge about the Sorority. Since my initiation in the Fall of 1997, there has not been a time span of more than thirty days that I have not held an office; I have been an active leader and contributor to the Sorority as an Active member and officer of the Omega Chapter at the University of Arizona, as a Western District officer, as a Western District Joint Alumni Association officer, as a National Council member, and this past biennium as a Board of Trustees member. In these positions, I have learned an incredible amount about Tau Beta Sigma and have been a part of major plans, improvements, developments, and events of the Sorority. I hope to continue this track record.

In my professional life, I am a professor at Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana. I teach music education, education, and music department courses at my school and work with a wide variety of students across all majors. I also have started a band program at SMC, reintroducing band into the curriculum for the first time in over 15 years. I work closely with students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders as we develop a meaningful instrumental music program. SMC is a "sister school" with Notre Dame, and I have developed strong professional relationships with their band staff, as we share students. Concurrently, I serve the college through committee work, and I have been elected to two committees that deal with Student Affairs, including the Student Affairs Hearing Board. These experiences will prove invaluable and allow me to garner skills to bring to the Tau Beta Sigma table.

My desire to serve Tau Beta Sigma through the role of a Trustee comes from a place of deep love, respect, and appreciation of the Sorority. My life has been indescribably impacted by the organization, and I want to ensure a strong, positive, meaningful future for all college band members who make the decision to be a part of the Sisterhood. In the 2013-2015 biennium, I served on the Board as the Immediate Past National President and learned more about the functions, roles, and tasks that the Board of Trustees must undertake. I contributed to the Board as the Scholarship Committee Chair, a position that allowed me to work with alumni members and Wava's daughter, Sandra, and give them the opportunity to continue to serve at the national level of the organization. Also in this past biennium I helped with other projects including the Wava Memorial and the development of the 1946 Club. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Trustees and contribute in meaningful ways. I sincerely hope that there is a wide pool of candidates for the Board positions, yet I also urge you to strongly consider my nomination. I have an amazing track record of service to the Sorority, and I plan to continue that level of commitment if you deem it in the best interest of Tau Beta Sigma.

Sincerely,

Dawn Marie Farmer, Ph.D.

Immediate Past National President, Tau Beta Sigma

Assistant Professor of Music Education & Director of Bands, Saint Mary's College

Life Member, Omega Chapter

# Dawn Marie Farmer, Ph.D.

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Phone: 310-801-3110 E-Mail: Dawn@tbsigma.org

## Education

**Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education** **May 2015**  
**Arizona State University**

Dissertation title: *Urban Music Education: A Critical Discourse Analysis*

**Master of Arts in Music Education** **May 2008**  
**University of Maryland**

Thesis title: *Authorship and Methodology Patterns in Music Education Research, 1984 – 2007*

**Bachelor of Music in Music Education** **May 2002**  
**University of Arizona**

Graduated *Cum Laude*

## Professional Experience – Positions in Higher Education

**Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Bands** **Fall 2014 – Current**  
**Saint Mary's College [IN]**

**Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music Education** **Fall 2013 – Spring 2014**  
**University of Oklahoma [OK]**

**Assistant Professor &, Coordinator of Music Education** **Fall 2012 – Spring 2013**  
**Boise State University [ID]**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** **Fall 2010 – Spring 2013**  
**Arizona State University [AZ]**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** **Fall 2006 – Spring 2008**  
**University of Maryland [MD]**

## Professional Experience – Positions in K-12 Education

**Kenmoor Middle School, Director of Instrumental Music** **July 2008 – July 2010**  
**Landover, MD**

**MBUSD: Elementary Bands & Honor Ensembles, HS Band** **July 2002 – July 2006**  
**Manhattan Beach, CA**

## Research, Publication

### Research Interests

Urban music education, social justice, critical race theory, women in music/band, teacher preparation

### Publication

Dissertation & Thesis documents on ProQuest; 2010 Arizona Music News; Book Chapter on Gladys Wright and Women in School Band Leadership (in process, due in print in 2017)

## **Sorority Experience – National Level**

**Immediate Past National President, Board of Trustees**      **2013 – 2015**

Scholarship Chair, Wava Memorial Team, 1946 Club Development

**National President**      **2011 – 2013**

Development of Wava Memorial, Standard Operating Procedures Development

**National Vice-President for Colonization & Membership**      **2009 – 2011**

Installed 9 Colonies, National District Leadership Conference Innovations

**National Vice-President for Special Projects**      **2007 – 2009**

Inclusion of *Affirmation* as a National Song, Scouting for Music Program, Developed National Historian Position

**National Vice-President for Communication & Recognition**      **2006 – 2007**

Appointed Midway Through Biennium, Reorganized Records, Top Chapter Rubric Development

## **Sorority Experience – Alumni, District, Chapter Levels**

**WDJAA: Western District Joint Alumni Association**

President; Vice-President of Special Projects

**Omicron Colony Advisor**

**Western District**

President; Vice President for Colonization and Membership

**Omega Chapter (The University of Arizona)**

President (2 terms), Vice-President of Active Membership, Parliamentarian

## **Sorority & Fraternal Memberships**

**Honorary Membership in Tau Beta Sigma**

National Chapter, Midwest District, Southwest District, Western District, North Central District, Beta Eta Chapter

**Honorary Membership in Kappa Kappa Psi**

Omega Chapter, Midwest District, Western District, Beta Omicron Chapter, Psi Chapter

**Tau Beta Alumni Association Charter Member**

**Life Membership in Tau Beta Sigma**

National Chapter, Omega Chapter

## **Community Band Involvement (Clarinet)**

**Notre Dame Summer Band [IN]**

**Treasure Valley Concert Band [ID]**

**University of Maryland Clarinet Choir [MD]**

**Santa Monica College Concert Band [CA]**



April 16, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am happy to write this letter in support of Dawn Farmer's nomination for a position on the Board of Trustees of Tau Beta Sigma. I am aware of how important this organization has been to Dawn over the years, and how much she values being a part of it. She has served the organization well for many years, and would like the opportunity to continue to do so as a member of the Board.

Dawn is finishing her first year as Assistant Professor of Music Education here at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame. This is a position that was essentially vacant for 30 years, and Dawn has been charged with reactivating and reenergizing our program. I can't imagine anyone better suited to the job.

Her teaching evaluations have been excellent. She is responsible for reactivating our collegiate chapter of the National Association for Music Education (CNAfME). Our students are now excited about their futures in the field of Music Education, and having a full-time faculty member on campus to guide them is making a big difference.

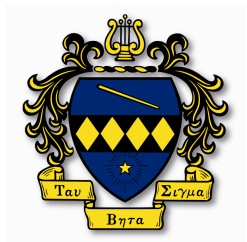
We especially appreciate the relationship Dawn has developed with the Notre Dame Band program and their staff. Our instrumental music majors are regularly involved in this program and it is important that we maintain a strong connection with them as it benefits our students as well as our Music Education program. Dawn made this a priority as soon as she arrived on campus. She has already gotten to know many of the area public school music educators by visiting classrooms and supervising our students' field and student teaching experiences. She has a unique ability to foster strong collegial relationships with others, which will serve her well as a member of the Tau Beta Sigma Board.

After 30 years of neglect, our Music Education materials and classroom instruments and supplies had fallen into disrepair and worse. Dawn has enthusiastically inventoried all of our current holdings in this area and has made a plan for repair, replacement, and purchase of other needed materials. She took it upon herself, in advance of our recent NASM reaccreditation visit, to clean out our storage areas and get rid of outdated and unused technical equipment and other stored items. She has worked with IT to improve our classroom technology as well. She is ultra-organized, plans ahead, and is innovative and forward-thinking.

I can't imagine any one better suited to serve as a member of your board. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Menk, Chair  
Department of Music  
Saint Mary's College



## Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority

April 2015

To the National Council of Tau Beta Sigma:

I am thrilled that Dr. Dawn Farmer has asked me to write a letter of recommendation for her Board of Trustees run. She is without a doubt the kind of person Tau Beta Sigma would like to have representing the national organization. She is fun, personable, organized and thoughtful of others, intelligent and most importantly a very integral part of the sorority and the band world.

Dawn comes from the Omega chapter at University of Arizona and the long history of success there is evident in her sisterhood and values. She has been one of my most favorite people in the sorority ever since we worked together as district officer and district counselor many years ago. She gets along with everyone she meets because of her wonderful attitude toward life.

Dawn has been a vital member of the national leadership team for years. Her work ethic and leadership speaks for itself. She is a huge asset to our organization. Her resume is vast with chapter, district, and national roles.

As a music educator, Dawn will continue to be an asset to Tau Beta Sigma. She communicates with Director of Bands and Sponsors on each campus beautifully. She will represent us well!

I highly recommend Dr. Dawn Farmer for the Board of Trustees of Tau Beta Sigma.

Sincerely,

Kimbi Sigle  
Tau Beta Sigma  
Past National President  
2007-2009

April 27, 2015

Dear Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma:

I write you with utmost enthusiasm for the opportunity to recommend Dawn Farmer as a Trustee on the Board of Tau Beta Sigma. Her involvement and experience with multiple band programs and Tau Beta Sigma make her a uniquely qualified candidate. Having been a part of national leadership for 9 years and serving the past biennium on the Board, she has an in depth understanding of the Sorority, its current needs, and strategic plans.

I first met Dawn after getting elected as Midwest District President in 2011 at the District Leadership Conference and National Convention in Colorado Springs. During this week, Dawn worked with the newly elected district leadership to develop strategic goals, plan out their terms, and build leadership skills. It didn't take long to realize how valuable to the longevity of the Sorority Dawn was. She cares deeply about our students and they are the number one focus of every action she has taken. With the combination of her past experience, passion for student success, and her plethora of skills, Dawn will be a major supporting factor in the Board as we push our Sorority to the next level.

Professionally, she has experience at multiple institutions and has developed a wide network of professionals in music education. This a great asset to the Board as it broadens the messages they are sharing and gives a stronger base when gathering feedback or initiating new programs. For programs planning, she has interactions with students every day, giving her direct insight into the needs of students.

With her experience in Tau Beta Sigma, professional background, and personal leadership, I truly believe Dawn Farmer would make an outstanding Trustee and continue to be a valuable asset to our organization going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Rebarchek  
Midwest District Alumni Association VPM of TBS 2014-Present  
Midwest District President 2011-2013  
Life Member, Zeta Delta