

Letter of Intent for the National Presidency

1604 North Michelle Circle, Memphis, TN 38107 | (501) 416-1191 | erikapope@tbsigma.org

March 1, 2021

To the Sisters of Tau Beta Sigma,

Greetings in the bond of musical service. It is with great enthusiasm and honor that I offer myself as a candidate for the Office of National President for Tau Beta Sigma. As my résumé will reflect, I have met all of the requirements to be considered for this position, but it is also my hope that by the end of this letter, each of you will gain a sense of the many ways in which I have been suitably prepared to elevate into the figurehead role for the Sorority.

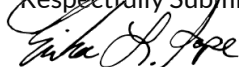
From my initiation into Tau Beta Sigma in 1999, to serving in arguably the best role in the Sorority as a District Counselor for the Southwest from 2009-2015, and to the past six years of being a member of the National Council, it is not lost on me how fortunate I have been, to be able to be a part of the work that has led to the continued growth and success of the Sorority. While I will admit that I am absolutely awful at actual horticulture, my background in leadership has instilled in me a zeal and almost innate expertise to growing not only the people, but the initiatives of the Sorority.

As the National Vice President for Communication and Recognition (2015-2017), I was able to identify areas where new methods of communication could be conducive to engaging our membership in meaningful ways. This led to the creation of the *Tau Beta Tuesday* newsletters, which has continued to be published monthly by every NVPCR after me. While serving as the National Vice President for Special Projects (2017-2019), I recognized the opportunity for the Sorority to intentionally build relationships with other organizations that share many of our values. This opportunity helped guide me when selecting speakers for our *Women In Music Speakers Series* and allowed me to bring in such speakers as Composer Jocelyn Hagen of *#ComposeLikeAGirl*, as well as Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Corps Chief Operating Officer and Chair of *IN STEP: Women in DCI* program, Genevieve Geisler.

In my current role as the National Vice President for Colonization and Membership, every Essential Factor and Quality has been a part of my approach to the role in both expected and unexpected ways. As the Sorority's Expansion Officer, I implemented a myriad of new processes such as conducting Colony Application interviews with Directors of Bands and Interested Students, and developing the use of an Advising Team to work with each chartering group. As the National VP for Membership, I served as Chair of the National Curriculum Team, where we were responsible for the management of all curriculum materials, including the approval of the brand design and the eventual creation of the Membership Candidate Workbook. As the NVPCM, I was relied upon heavily to work with our leadership as they assisted chapters in making the move to online membership education during COVID-19, and the most massive undertaking in this regard, has been overseeing the development and implementation of the Virtual Ritual Experiences for chapters conducting membership intake during the 2020-2021 school year.

As I conclude this letter, I want to leave you with thoughts of what you can expect from a National President, Erika Pope. As we continue to celebrate our 75th Anniversary, I know visions of the next 25 years will begin to take flight. While I don't have any of the fancier degrees and I won't always have the million dollar ideas, what you can expect, is that I will always show up to do the job, no matter what. It is my intention to preside over a biennium where our work reflects the value that Tau Beta Sigma can bring to the college band program and do so from a place where we are able to show up as a diverse, unabashed, and synergetic Sisterhood!

Respectfully Submitted,



Erika L. Pope
Theta Theta Chapter
Tau Beta Sigma | Life Member #2610

Professional & Sorority Résumé for Erika L. Pope

1604 North Michelle Circle, Memphis, TN 38107 | (501) 416-1191 | erikapope@tbsigma.org

Objective

To elevate into the role of National President of Tau Beta Sigma, while using my years of experience, leadership, and determination to further shape Tau Beta Sigma into a premiere institution for college bands.

Education

Bachelor of Arts | December 2005 | Henderson State University

Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and a Minor in Music.

Professional Background

Musical Arts Coordinator | Rhodes college | December 2016 - Present

Responsible for coordinating all aspects of the Department of Music's front office including the hiring and training of student employees, supply ordering, processing payroll for part-time professors, coordinating travel accommodations for guests, and maintaining the departmental budget. Also provides advanced clerical and administrative support for the department, including data collection for annual accreditation reports, management of advertisement for departmental events,

Membership Development Executive | Girl Scouts | July 2014 – December 2016

Working for two different Girl Scout Councils (Girl Scouts of Central Texas and Girl Scouts Heart of the South), I successfully built the membership base by helping to start Girl Scout troops in areas that had never had them. I developed and implemented strategies towards retention and membership growth and was able to achieve over 55% of the girl retention rate from the year prior to gaining employment with GSCTX.

Tau Beta Sigma Background

CHAPTER PARTICIPATION

- Initiated into the Theta Theta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma from Henderson State University on October 25, 1999.
- Offices Held: Community Service Chair (2000-2001), Vice President (2001-2002), and President (2002-2005)

DISTRICT PARTICIPATION

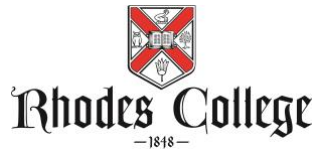
- Served as the Southwest District Vice President for Colonization & Membership (2005-2006).
- Served as the Southwest District Counselor for Tau Beta Sigma (2009-2015).
- Attendee: Midwest District Convention (2016, 2017, & 2019); North Central District Convention (2017 & 2019); Northeast District Convention (2016, 2018, 2019, & 2020); Southeast District Convention (2018, 2019, & 2020); Southwest District Convention (2000, 2001, 2003-2017); and Western District Convention (2018 & 2020).

NATIONAL PARTICIPATION

- Attendance and participation at Tau Beta Sigma's Biennial National Convention (2003-2019)
 - Co-organizer for the National Convention *Ritual of Excellence* (2011 & 2013).
- Contributor for the TBS Chapter Field Representative Program ad hoc committee (2015).
- Served as TBS National Vice President for Communication and Recognition (2015-2017).
- Served as the TBS National Vice President for Special Projects (2017-2019).
- Currently serving as the TBS National Vice President for Colonization & Membership (2019-Present)
- TBSAA Diamond Anniversary Member (2021)

SORORITY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Served as the Installing Officer for: Gamma Eta Chapter - Mississippi Valley State University (2009), Epsilon Psi Chapter - Prairie View A&M University (2015), Beta Phi Chapter - Florida A&M University (2018), and Theta Alpha Chapter - Fayetteville State University (2019).
- Notable accomplishments as NVPCR (2015-2017):
 - Created the first editions of the *Tau Beta Tuesday Newsletter* (2016-2017).
 - Launched the official Tau Beta Sigma Instagram (2015-2017).
 - Oversaw the redesigning of the Sorority's national website, tbsigma.org (2016-2017).
- Notable accomplishments as NVPSP (2017-2019):
 - Directed and edited a TBS Risk Management Education Video (2017).
 - Edited the *8 to 5 Minute* Presidential Updates (2017-2019).
 - Oversaw content updates for the 4Gr8rBands YouTube Channel.
 - Co-authored the first NIB Audition Event Guide (2018-2019).
- Notable accomplishments as NVPCM (2019-Present):
 - Established the Colony Advising Team structure for each of the groups selected to begin the chartering process.
 - Repurposed the function of the Tau Beta Sigma Colony Handbook.
 - Oversaw the chartering of two brand new chapters of Tau Beta Sigma (Iota Omega Chapter and the Kappa Alpha Chapter) and currently overseeing the rechartering of two chapters (Delta Alpha Colony and Zeta Kappa Colony).
 - Served as chair of the *Overture*, National Curriculum Committee where we:
 - Managed all applicable updates to the Educator's Manual for *Overture*.
 - Created an accompanying Membership Candidate Workbook for *Overture*.
 - Created resources for Membership Educators to use in conjunction with *Overture*.
 - Oversaw the development and implementation of the Tau Beta Sigma Virtual Ritual Experiences for chapters to initiate new members during remote chapter operations for the 2020-2021 school year.



February 19, 2021

Dear Sisters and the Nominations Committee of Tau Beta Sigma,

It is my privilege to recommend Erika Pope for the office of National President of Tau Beta Sigma. I have read the job description and I am certain that Erika would be a committed, visionary president. I have known Erika for five years and worked with her closely in her role as the Musical Arts Coordinator at Rhodes College. Here at Rhodes College I am Chair of the Department of Music and Theatre and I depend on Erika to assist me and take care of many details every day. Erika is certainly one of the hardest 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 National President of TBS.

Erika is very clear about 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 the organization. Beyond her affection for TBS, Erika brings knowledge about its inner workings from the many years of experiences with chapters on their campuses and at conferences, and now from her two years as National VP of Colonization and Membership. She has an intense desire to lead TBS to become the premiere band service organization. As a leader Erika brings the qualities of 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 is the Musical Arts Coordinator for the Department of Music, where she manages many faculty schedules, including the use of the entire Music building, and the concert venues and rehearsal spaces across campus. She 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 very valuable to Rhodes College and this department. Erika has a great rapport with students and student workers by being helpful yet clear about directions. With faculty she is well-respected and known as a confidant and "keeper of the knowledge" of the department and its workings. 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. During COVID times, Erika has managed new systems for our department as we were completely remote for half of the Spring semester and all of the Fall semester. We have relied on her to make big changes in software used for juries and

the new systems of signing documents. As we returned to campus this January, Erika has been in charge of COVID safety protocols for the music building and has created a scheduling system for practice room usage for health and safety and for remote lessons.

In our frequent conversations about Erika's work with the sorority, I am aware of her great hopes and dreams for the TBS organization and its members. She is committed to highlighting women in music. With that initiative TBS is already on its way to assuring members from all backgrounds and experiences feel that they belong. That is the result of an inclusiveness that will propel TBS toward true equity. Erika is devoted to creating a place for everyone in TBS and she will guarantee that TBS will serve everyone.

I highly recommend Erika Pope, without any reservations, for this very important office of National President for the fine organization that is Tau Beta Sigma. She will help your organization grow in all the right ways!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carole C. Blankenship". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Carole C. Blankenship, D.M.A.
Professor of Music
Elizabeth G. Daughdrill Chair in the Fine Arts
Rhodes College, Chair, Music and Theatre
President, National Association of Teachers Singers

Christina C. Gordon

February 17, 2021

Dear Sisters,

Please accept this letter as my recommendation for Erika Pope for Tau Beta Sigma National President. I have known Erika since she was a student at Henderson State University, and I have had the privilege of watching her excel in every opportunity to which she has set her mind over the years. I believe she will be an outstanding leader for the sorority.

During my time as Southwest District Counselor, I saw first-hand Erika's natural leadership skills as a student and district officer. When my time as Counselor was coming to an end, I was thrilled to learn that Erika would be stepping into the role. I knew that the students and schools would be in the very best hands. Her enthusiasm & love for the organization was evident in the relationships she built with each set of district officers entrusted to her guidance & mentorship.

In the last year, the organization has adapted many of the things we have come to love about being together in person to a virtual format. Erika's role as National VPCM allowed her to lead chapters across the nation in pivoting our most sacred tradition, our ritual, to an online experience that provided not only a beautiful model for practice, but also an opportunity for national leaders from all areas of TBS to engage with students during this special moment.

Erika's leadership style is earnest & focused. She has the incredible ability to look ahead; always considering what may be next. She is able to do this from a place of excitement rather than fear. From here, she sets a goal and quietly and unassumingly gets to work making it happen. Challenges are considered opportunities to Erika, and she meets each task with grit and grace.

It's not just Erika's professional demeanor that makes her such a great leader. Her ability to connect with others, make them feel comfortable and appreciated, makes her stand out. She is a service-oriented, generous individual. She is an enthusiastic and encouraging team member.

Erika Pope's journey in Tau Beta Sigma has included leadership at every level of the organization. She has risen to the occasion and has exceeded expectations at every turn. She has the institutional knowledge of what has been, as well as what must happen next for the sorority. It is because of this that I offer my full recommendation.

In the Bond,

Christina C. Gordon

Life Member, Tau Beta Sigma

Life Member, Kappa Kappa Psi

February 23, 2021 10801 Lockwood Dr. Suite 210, Silver Springs, MD 20901 Office (301) 298-1040- Fax (240) 867-7178

To the Nominating Committee of Tau Beta Sigma:

It is my honor and privilege to write to you today to support the candidacy of Erika Pope as the next National President of Tau Beta Sigma. I have worked with Erika for many years in Tau Beta Sigma leadership and she has remained a constant beacon of excellence, determination, and compassion for both our students and alumni. As a District Counselor, Erika was the epitome of a leader; going above and beyond the call of duty for her chapters. Erika visited EVERY CHAPTER in the Southwest District as a solo counselor. She volunteered when needed and did her duties with dignity, poise, and precision that is still unparalleled. Having been a District Counselor myself, I felt Erika was extra-ordinary in the execution of her office.

Erika will likely tell you a story about me wanting her on my team as the incoming National President in 2015 and it is true. She was and is the best. Her kindness, her generosity, her determination, her body of work: all exceptional, all a Master Course in Tau Beta Sigma leadership. As National Vice President for Communication and Recognition, I watched her first hand as she implemented TBS Tuesdays and work with the council to grow Focus on Five. Most recently as National Vice President for Colonization and Membership, I have sat in awe as she and the council transitioned in this unprecedented time to a virtual platform for all aspects of the sorority processes and membership activities. These student are beyond blessed to have her as a part of this team and will continue to grown under her leadership as president. Her example is one of stellar musicianship with the "Big Damn Horns". Her commitment to higher education speaks through her phenomenal work at Rhodes College.

However, I do her no justice if I don't speak to the example she sets through her sisterhood and humanity. In these times of such sorrow and darkness, it is heartwarming and encouraging to see how she continues to serve her community and our students. Tau Beta Sigma is lucky to have this amazing human being willing to continue in service to our ideals and our purposes. I support her candidacy and recommend her to join the ranks of Tau Beta Sigma National Presidents without reservation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathryn D. Garrett Kelly, MD
Tau Beta Sigma, Past National President 2015-2017
Life Member, Eta Delta Chapter, Howard University