

Student Employee of the Year Nomination 2022

Nominee Name: Megan Chase
Student Job Title: Lead University Ambassador
Department: Undergraduate Admission

Supervisor: Emily Blaser
Position: Admission Counselor
Department: Undergraduate Admission

It is an absolute pleasure to write this letter in support of my *best* student employee, Megan Chase, who I am proud to nominate for the 2022 Student Employee of the Year award. I truly can't think of a student who is more deserving of this prestigious honor. Megan impresses me every day, and I only hope this letter can highlight just how big of an impact she has made in the Office of Undergraduate Admission Office throughout her time as a Lead University Ambassador at Monmouth University.

I am the Supervisor of the Ambassador Program at Monmouth University. Each year, the Office of Undergraduate Admission employs a staff of approximately 35 Ambassadors whose main responsibilities are to give campus tours and assist with admission-related campus events. Megan has been working in our office since the summer before her Sophomore year, and quickly demonstrated to our professional staff that she was taking this position seriously. She immediately took initiative and was always looking to do more during her shifts. I've worked with dozens of students throughout the years, and I can honestly say that none stand out quite like Megan does.

The Lead Ambassador position comes with a great deal of responsibility. They are not only responsible for giving accurate and interesting tours to university guests, but also training the new Ambassadors that I hire. Our training program is extensive and vital to the success of the program as a whole. Lead Ambassadors run the 2-day training session and teach new Ambassadors how to give an effective tour, which is a huge responsibility. A campus tour can be make or break when it comes to a prospective student's decision to attend Monmouth or not. The students she has trained over the years have turned out to be the most successful Ambassadors I've managed, which is a testament to how successfully she has taught them. This year, we had a new Ambassador who was struggling to learn the Tour script. Megan took the time to work one-on-one with this student to come up with ways for her to learn the information. Rather than getting frustrated, Megan spent even more time with this student than Leads generally do. I was blown away by her ability to help this student learn the material in a way that worked best for her. Megan is the best Lead Ambassador that I have on my staff; she is an exceptional communicator and is respected by everyone she encounters. Additionally, I am always receiving rave reviews of Megan from the families she meets on tours. So many students have said "I chose Monmouth because of Megan," that it is getting hard to even keep track. She has been effective in her role throughout the years – doing her job well in-person and when we transitioned to a virtual format. Megan consistently goes above and beyond, offering to speak with prospective students after their tours, sitting on panels (in-person and virtual), Zooming/video chatting with students after hours, or meeting with families at an Accepted Student Day. These actions are not typical of the average Ambassador – this is why Megan is a clear choice to be nominated for the 2022 Student Employee of the Year award.

My role as an Admission Counselor requires me to be out of the office for periods of time so I can visit high schools out-of-state and recruit students to come to Monmouth. Being on the road and managing a staff of 35 Ambassadors comes with many challenges, since I'm not physically present in the office for weeks at a time. During my travel season, I rely on my Lead Ambassadors quite heavily, since they act as my eyes and ears when I am not on campus. The Lead Ambassadors essentially act as mini-supervisors when I am unable to be here due to travel constraints. Megan is my go-to Lead for *just about everything*. Whenever I am on the road, she is my main point of contact on campus. She delegates tasks for her fellow Ambassadors to complete, such as daily mailings, event setup, and of course, campus tour management. I know that if I assign Megan with a task, it will be done accurately in a timely manner. She comes to work early, and is always volunteering to cover shifts for her peers when they need it. Her work ethic is going to serve her well in all of her future professional endeavors.

Megan's fellow Ambassadors look up to Megan as a role model, since she possesses all of the leadership qualities she needs to excel in this position. Not only do Megan's fellow Ambassadors idolize her, but the professional staff in the Undergraduate Admission office do as well. Whenever my Director needs an Ambassador to give a special tour to a VIP guest, for example, Megan is always asked for by name. My fellow Admission Counselor, Kelly Anne Young, recently shared her thoughts on Megan with me, saying: "Megan is a phenomenal student worker. She is always eager to help out our professional staff when called upon. The enthusiasm and dedication she possessed for her role is unmatched. Megan is someone you can rely on, to not only do the work assigned, but to do it well." I completely agree with this sentiment, and only hope that I can find another Ambassador to take her place once she graduates. Megan is a true team player who manages conflict exceptionally well, and this does not go unnoticed by her peer, my colleagues, or myself.

Megan is personable, informative, and professional. She represents all of the things that make Monmouth so great, and prospective students often find it easy to see how they will fit in at Monmouth based on the experiences Megan shares with them. Megan often shares personal stories with families that help them feel "at home" on Monmouth's campus. Megan is a very socially aware young lady, and she is constantly thinking about ways she can make Monmouth a better place. Her passion for activism and social justice, coupled with her strong desire to "do the right thing" makes her stand out from the crowd. She exudes Monmouth Hawk pride, and is the epitome of what being a student at Monmouth is all about.

Megan's goals for the future are quite impressive, and I will fully support her in all she chooses to do. She has received several Law School acceptances and will be making her decision this Spring. Megan possesses many qualities that make her the perfect law school candidate. She is well organized, hardworking, and she approaches tasks in a systematic way. Megan's performance as a Lead Ambassador has shown me that she has chosen the perfect career path for her, and I can't wait to continue cheering her on from the sidelines.

On a more personal note, I think it is important to mention just how great of a person Megan is. She is downright hilarious, and can always make me laugh even when I'm having a difficult day. Megan is a fashionista who knows how to make her work polo look like the most fashionable piece of clothing there is. She is a really amazing student who I hope to remain in touch with for years to come.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider choosing this stellar student to be Monmouth's 2022 Student Employee of the Year. Megan consistently goes above and beyond, and that is why she deserves to be selected to receive this award.