**TRACY NELSON STATEMENT**

Explain the strengths you would bring to the Leadership Council and why you want to serve.

My strengths comprise of my ability to get along with others, to encourage those around me, to listen without judgement, maintain organization, and my understanding of young professionals. I have been a SHAPE SD member since 1995, I have always valued collaboration and professional involvement. In fact, at my first state convention, I presented with a few other students and a faculty member. I continue to present with many others to this day. I get along well with others, if we all work together, we can achieve so much more. I believe in encouraging those around me, we could all use more encouragement and I have that to offer. I listen without judgement. I believe that we have so many amazing members and we need to do a better job of listening to them. I think sometimes all of us are too quick to say, “been there/done that”, instead we need to listen more and not be too quick to dismiss ideas. We also need to be more willing to listen and accept others ideas, as not any one person can, or should, ‘do it all’. This past year I was given the opportunity to organize as convention manager, the SHAPE America Central District convention, and I believe it was a success from the organizational stand point. Finally, my biggest source of pride and my greatest strength as a potential CD Leadership Council member, for the past 10 years I have worked at South Dakota State University with future professionals. I put all of these skills, encouragement, listening, and organizing to task while working with them. They are the future of our profession, the key to our organizations success, they are why I want to serve. I believe I could assist with tapping into this ‘future’ resource for Central District.