



Individual Awards

2019 GREEK LEADERS OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes several outstanding members of the fraternity/sorority communities throughout the Northeast. These students are individuals who exemplify the ideals of their fraternity or sorority in their daily lives.

- **Ahmed Elmekadem**, *Tau Kappa Epsilon, Rutgers University - Camden*
- **Julia Lafferty**, *Sigma Delta Tau, Adelphi University*
- **Dominick Pintavalle**, *Sigma Pi, St. John's University*

GUENZLER AWARD

The Guenzler Award recognizes a staff member or volunteer of a fraternity/sorority organization who has made significant and long-term contributions to the fraternity/sorority community within the Northeast region or to the Northeast Greek Leadership Association.

Winner - Lindsey Stinson, Cambridge Area Panhellenic

Lindsey Stinson began her role as an advisor in 2005 and has been integral to the success of the women she works with. Additionally, for the last 12 years Lindsey has been the only advisor for her students. One of our judges writes: "Her dedication to her students seems to have made such an impact" and that "she is a respected member of the Panhellenic community and will continue to make an impact." A nominator describes their commitment to professionalism and leading the community to become more collaborative and grow chapter sizes. Lindsey leads by example and helps her women learn the value of membership beyond their respective chapters. Due to her unwavering commitment to volunteering and the fraternal movement that Lindsey was an obvious choice for this award.

PHILIPPI AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize a fraternity/sorority campus professional who has made significant contributions to the fraternity/sorority community within the Northeast region by advising any governing council.

Winner - Jamie Silverstein, University of New Hampshire

Jamie Silverstein has created real change on her campus during the year and a half of their tenure. Each of their nominators mentioned Jamie's ability to provide undivided attention, focus on details, challenge their community to grow in such a short amount of time, and commit to bettering their students' lives. One of their nominators write "She has single handedly risen our community to higher standards that all boil down to caring for one another. She has challenged Panhellenic and IFC to look at our bylaws closely in order to strengthen relationships with campus partners, create a values based recruitment, clarify our social policy, and develop new leadership positions. More importantly, she has cultivated a strong culture of care within our FSL community with strong focus on hazing and sexual violence education." Jamie makes their students a number one priority in dedicating 26 hours for bi-weekly one on ones, but also attending every Panhellenic and IFC executive board and general body meeting. Two nominators specifically mention that she has helped provide a better understanding of the impact they can have on their community. Additionally, they mention the creation of new programs such as a Fraternity/Sorority Life Leadership Conference, New Member Workshop, and partnership with Title IX. The Senior Vice Provost at her institution describes her as "among the very best student affairs/life colleagues with who they work with on their campus." It is because of their passion, commitment, and the respect they have earned from their colleagues and students that we are honored to award this year's Philippi Award to Jamie Silverstein, Fraternity and Sorority Life Advisor at the University of New Hampshire!

BONNIE WUNSCH VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

This award recognizes a volunteer who has made significant contributions to the Northeast Greek Leadership Association.

Winner - Emily Perlow, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Emily Perlow is known to be a true model of volunteerism. She is consistently leading by example and always willing to roll up her sleeves to do whatever is needed to get the job done. This long-time volunteer has served NGLA in a variety of roles over the last 12 years. She is responsible for so much of NGLA's continued success including the silent auction, the innovation grant, several of our scholarships, the NPC/IFC Academy, partnerships with Rho Lambda and NALFO, and so much more. Her colleagues describe her as fun, sarcastic, and bold. She is a true visionary that has kept NGLA vibrant and fun. She also has helped elevate association operations by leading the hiring process of our first-ever Virtual Assistant, Audra Dwan. Serving three terms on the Board of Directors, Emily Perlow has been a very familiar face of NGLA. Emily has had such a tremendous impact on so many of us for so many years and has been a guiding light and inspiration to many.

JOSETTE KAUFMAN HEALTH AND WELLNESS AWARD

The award is meant to honor the good work chapters, councils, and communities have done in the health and wellness areas including, but not limited to, women's and men's health issues, sexual assault, cyber-bullying and/or mental health education and prevention.

Winner - Panhellenic Association, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Panhellenic Association at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently updated a program that they have been executing at their campus for the last several years. They partnered with crisis management and health professionals on campus to educate on topics such as substance abuse, women's health, and eating disorders. These topics are covered in interactive modules which set the standard for health education of their sorority members. This program provides community members with general framework to allow the individual chapters the ability to personalize their education for their sisters. This forward-thinking and student driven initiative exemplifies the ability to identify a need and providing resources for the community. As a result of their initiative, the S.T.A.R. Program has provided their women with valuable resources on campus.

HANK NUWER AWARD FOR HAZING PREVENTION

This award recognizes a chapter, council, community, student, campus professional, campus volunteer, national organization staff member or volunteer, or community member that has made a significant contribution to hazing prevention within the fraternity/sorority community of the Northeast region.

Winner - Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council, Susquehanna University

The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils at Susquehanna University chose to take action following the untimely passing of Timothy Piazza from Penn State. They chose to have a "Walk to End Hazing" in which all proceeds from this event went to the Timothy J Piazza Memorial Foundation. The foundation provides support to those in need of prosthetic devices, particularly children. As a Fraternity/Sorority Community, the students came together to walk around a track covered with bags of the names of those who have passed away due to hazing incidents within the last 40 years. These bags were filled with glow sticks to show that their legacy still lives on and designed to honor those victims and that the students of this community walk with them. During this event, members of the community stood around the track and read statistics related to hazing. Between the emotional connection and the desire to educate faculty, staff, and administration as well as students, they were able to raise \$1,000 dollars overall.

AMY VOJTA IMPACT AWARDS

The Amy Vojta Impact Awards celebrate the accomplishments of our chapters, councils, and communities in seven areas. Named in honor of Amy Vojta, former Executive Director of NGLA, recipients of these awards have excelled in a certain area and have created a program or initiative that has had a positive impact.

Amy Vojta Impact Awards are given in the following categories:

Academic Achievement

Sigma Phi Epsilon at Stevens Institute of Technology - Chapter Winner

Sigma Phi Epsilon emphasizes wellness for all of its members. The New Jersey Alpha RLC believes that wellness also includes the academic success of its members. The members of the chapter created a Class Review program to help the academic success of its members by working in a group setting to study for an exam. The program was so successful that they have offered these class reviews to other students across the campus, providing support to over 2,500 students across the last two semesters. These review classes cover introductory courses that are usually taken during a student's freshman or sophomore year. The reason behind this choice is that some students struggle during the transition from high school to college, and the hope is that these reviews will help the students learn how to succeed on a college campus with a variety of different professors and teaching styles. While the chapter cannot measure success in terms of GPA, they measure their success in terms of attendance and feedback from attendees. Additionally, the chapter partners with their campus' television organization so that the sessions can be recorded and shared with other students who may not be able to attend to provide additional access to resources and promote overall success.

Panhellenic Council at University of Vermont - Council Winner

The Panhellenic Council at the University of Vermont believes that small consistent actions yield large results. In addition to workshops and speakers, this council provides positive reinforcement and highlights its members in various aspects throughout the year. The Vice President of Scholarship worked with each chapter's Academic Chair to create personalized Academic Plans based on each chapter's individuals needs. The Vice President also held follow up meetings to check in on the progress of each chapter. Additionally, the Vice President partnered with alumni to host workshops and trainings on topics such as time management, resume building, brand identity, and overall wellness and its direct relationship to academics as well as about life and their career after college. One example of these workshops included navigating office culture and being a woman in the workplace. Additionally, students are recognized at the annual Fraternity & Sorority Awards Night with awards such as Most Improved Scholar and Most Outstanding Scholar, along with honor cords for additional recognition. This program allows for the community to see how their academic success can benefit future success through college and after graduation. The Panhellenic Council values academic achievement for not only their community but the Greek community. They strive to promote lifelong learning.

University of Rhode Island Greek Life - Community Winner

Recent research from Inside Higher Ed reveals that affiliated students **do not** always have a higher GPA than their non-affiliated peers. Additionally, the student leaders recognize that there can be a struggle to motivate students who fall below individual GPA requirements. Given that information, the Greek Life Community at the University of Rhode Island strives to maintain high academic standards and promote excellence amongst its members. They are driven by the desire to see their community succeed on campus. This community plans training for their chapters to ensure the importance of academic success, and works to make sure that their library is filled with healthy options for snacks while studying. Members of the council's leadership meet with individual chapter Scholarship Chairs to individually track the growth or decline of a chapter's academic performance. Additionally, the students partner chapters with the campus' professional staff in the Academic Enhancement Center and Center for Career and Experiential Education if they feel a chapter is in need of additional resources. Their councils collaborate to positively reinforce the actions of their members through awards at their Annual Banquet such as Most Improved Scholarship. As a result of these efforts, both their Sorority Women and Fraternity Men have reported higher GPAs than their campus' All Women's and All Men's GPAs, respectively.

Zeta Delta Chapter of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority (MIT) - Honorable Mention

One of the advantages to joining a fraternal organization includes the networking benefits during and after college. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Panhellenic has a program entitled S.T.A.R. which partners older students with newer members of the same major/career path. However, this can present a problem if there is not an older member with the same major. To make sure that all their sisters were given tools for success, the chapter's Vice President of Academic Affairs created a Career Week. During this time, sisters were able to develop and practice skills such as writing cover letters, updating resumes, and practice their networking skills. Additionally, the chapter reached out to their alumnae to compile feedback and advice on how to interact with recruiters and what companies target specific majors, and compiled the information into a "Alumnae Advice" Book. The reason for this preparation is that the chapter recognizes that a GPA is not the sole source in which a student's success can be measured. By being able to help their sisters be prepared for interviews and grow in their networking skills, they are gaining lifelong professional development. Additionally, this program connected the chapter members with the Career Advising and Professional Development Office which helped students learn about other opportunities offered by the institution for professional development and internships. While the chapter does recognize that these professional staff members are designed to help students with career advisement, the purpose of these Career Week programs is to supplement the work of the professional staff and make the information less intimidating as it comes from a sister rather than a professional staff member.

Civic Engagement

Chi Upsilon Sigma National Sorority, Inc. at The College of New Jersey - Chapter Winner

The Delta Chapter of Chi Upsilon Sigma National Sorority, Inc. hosts an Making Achievement Continuous Conference (MACC) every year and is developed to focus on one of the organization's four awarenesses: political, educational, social, and cultural. The overall purpose of the conference is to create an atmosphere where students can take the time to learn about an important topic in a professional setting and leave with new knowledge in the hopes of enhancing their collegiate experience and developing their skills as active learners and community leaders. Each year, the topic is chosen based on something current and pressing with the goal to engage the campus and be applicable to the student body. For their 24th MACC, they chose the theme of This is America: Uncensored. The students had guest speakers and professors come and present on topics which focused around the idea of "What really is Modern Day America?" The conference was broken into two tracks, 1) What you can do for your country, and 2) What can your country do for you? Some examples of workshops included Double Standards in the Workplace and the Unequal Education System. In addition, the chapter creates a \$250 scholarship that is presented to a student during the Conference and helped first year students to experience a large scale conference which resulted in the encouragement to become leaders in their own communities.

Interfraternity Council at Quinnipiac University - Council Winner

The Interfraternity Council at Quinnipiac University hit the ground running chose to create a philanthropy as a council that all of the respective chapters could support, No Shave November. This was chosen because it was a cause that would be able to unite the council outside of their individual chapter affiliations. The council would help each individual chapter raise money for men's cancer research during the entire year rather than just in November. Additionally, during the month of November specific programs were hosted for a Week of Awareness. Some programs including tabling and handing out slips of paper with cancer related information to lead to an open dialogue, as well as bringing food trucks to campus to help raise money for research. They used peer education to inform others on the various types of cancers and bring the fraternity and sorority community together. The focus of the initiative was to educate students rather than collect money.

University of Rhode Island Greek community - Community Winner

Each year URI Greek Life hosts a week long fundraising initiative in the fall called Philanthropy Week. The goal of this week is to promote their core value of service through volunteer opportunities, fundraising, awareness of local and global causes. Following their success of hosting their first ever Dance Marathon, or as they call it RhodyThon, they knew their new focus of their philanthropy was going to be the Children's Miracle Network and therefore make this year's theme "The Year of the Kids." Their philanthropy week consisted of several programs that incorporated many levels of service and made a huge impact where funds raised were for Circle of Sisterhood and Camp Eureka. These students thought critically about the needs of the community and their own experiences, and how they could create an event that reflected that. To improve their fundraising skills, this community enhanced their online fundraising campaign in addition to their other programming. As a result of the students' dedication and focus on making Philanthropy Week better, they raised over \$76,000. In addition, students were able to learn about the need for education in and out of the classroom, and how their fundraising has impacted those right in their own community.

Membership Recruitment & Intake

Alpha Chi Rho at The College of New Jersey - Chapter Winner

The Phi Gamma Chi chapter of Alpha Chi Rho took initiative and moved away from a strategy that had left their chapter with facing recruitment numbers of 1 or 2 men per semester. They realized this was not sustainable and worked with Nationals to create a new plan. The leadership of the chapter worked to create an open environment where men wanted to get to know the brothers and join this organizations for its values. As a result of this shift, they saw their New Member Class grow 250% and plan to continue this momentum.

Professional Fraternity Council at Hofstra University - Council Winner

Following the recent establishment of the Professional Fraternity Council at Hofstra University, the council's leadership chose to seek guidance from the university staff to help members connect and get to know each other in a less formal setting in the hopes of networking and continued unity for a better campus, leading to improved retention. With the recent creation of this council, the campus felt it was imperative for the organizations to get to know each other. During a New Member Mingle, in which the council and university staff celebrated all of the new members of the 6 organizations, they hosted a dinner, played interactive games where they were able to learn about the other chapters, and create connections in a safe environment. The council also incorporated a service component by creating dog toys out of old tshirts that were donated.

Alpha Omicron Pi at Bryant University - Honorable Mention

To help create the highest possibility for positive interactions during recruitment with the hope of offering bids, the Beta Upsilon chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi critically assessed their approach to recruitment and method of matching sisters to Potential New Members for preference night to determine which eligible women should be offered membership. Their new process was two-fold. First, they created a Recruitment Notebook. This notebook was a powerpoint presentation prepared by the Vice President of Membership Recruitment and contained all relevant information for recruitment such as schedules, approved outfit ideas, and conversation starters and tips. All sisters were given access and it allowed all members to stay up to date on information. Secondly, they updated how sisters were matched with Potential New Members. This new method was based on data results. After each round, PNM's were asked to complete a short survey covering the topics of personality traits, hometown, and campus involvement. From there, the PNM's were matched with active members based on a formula which rated their compatibility. This allowed the chapter to not only invite back members who aligned with their chapter values, but also helped create a more personal experience for each new member.

Public Relations

Interfraternity Council at The College of New Jersey - Council Winner

This council created a Self Defense Workshop in collaboration with their Title IX office to help their fellow fraternity/sorority members as well as students in general at The College of New Jersey learn about the Title IX office, learn about resources on campus, and learn self-defense mechanisms in the event of possible sexual assault incidents. Social media was used to highlight the self-defense aspect to integrate the fun aspect of a serious topic facing college campuses. Additionally the image that the media portrays of fraternity men, the council felt it was important to create an event where they empowered people to protect themselves and educate others. This program was created to support the survivors, advocates, and student body members most affected by sexual assault and to bring their fraternal community together as more than just individual chapters. Following this event, the Interfraternity Council has decided that this was the first of many events in partnership with the Title IX office at TCNJ.

Panhellenic & Interfraternity Council at University of New Hampshire - Community Winner

In an effort to continue a positive relationship with the town, the fraternity and sorority community at the University of New Hampshire created a bi-weekly newsletter that was sent out to each individual chapter of the community, the town in which the institution is located, members of the chapters' National Headquarters, faculty and staff at the institution, and all non-fraternity/sorority organizations. The goal was to promote open communication, transparency, and to highlight all of the positive actions being taken by members of the fraternity/sorority community. This newsletter highlighted members in the community, programs that recently happened, and how the events and goals of this community are making the students better people and making the town a safer community, that welcomes all.

Multicultural

Kappa Phi Lambda at Rutgers University - New Brunswick - Chapter Winner

This chapter hosted a program on their campus to educate about the LGBTQIA+ community as well about American Sign Language (ASL) titled “Signs of Love.”. The reason for this event is two-fold: the chapter’s host institution does not recognize ASL as language, and for those that do use ASL many of the signs for members of the LGBTQIA+ community were once derogatory and have been slowly changing as times have changed. The goal of this program was to honor both the members of the LGBTQIA+ and American Sign Language communities. The chapter partnered with their institution’s Sign Language Club as well as Delta Lambda Phi to teach participants some of the different signs used in ASL. Some of the words taught included “Drag Queen”, “Queer”, and “Coming Out.” Participants also played a modified version of telephone where rather than verbally passing along a message, students would sign along a message as well as a modified version of Family Feud where teams competed to guess the meaning of signed words correctly.

Panhellenic at Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Council Winner

The Panhellenic Associate at MIT recognized that as a STEM focused institution, there is not always the option to discuss topics such as cultural, racial, and religious identities. As a result, they hosted a Diversity and Inclusivity training, where experts from different organizations came and led workshops. This year, some of the experts included members from Violence Prevention and Response, as well as Affiliated, a group focused on the intersection between LGBTQIA+ members and fraternity/sorority life. The goal is to raise questions, stimulate conversations, and help students grow, as well as reminding the women participating in Formal Recruitment the importance of recognizing diversity amongst students. Following the workshop, participants are able to provide feedback for changes to the next year allowing for continual growth.

Interfraternity Council at Quinnipiac University - Honorable Mention

In the hopes of creating more inclusive spaces on campus and the increasing amount of culturally based organizations on campus, the Interfraternity Council at Quinnipiac University partnered with their Student Government Association, Multicultural Student Leadership Council, Student Programming Board, and the Department of Cultural and Global Engagement to create an event entitled “Ask Away.” With the hope of creating an open dialogue and peer education, the program was designed to be an open forum where students on campus could come and ask questions that would normally be considered “ignorant” or “inappropriate” and would be shut down in other spaces. By having these conversations, attendees would be learning about cultural diversity, which the lack of understanding about diversity can create issues on campuses. Following the event, the conversations continued with each individual chapter on what they could do to be more inclusive and diverse in their actions and representation on campus.

Risk Reduction

Alpha Sigma Alpha at Rochester Institute of Technology - Chapter Winner

The Gamma Iota chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha chose to use interactive and engaging method to educate their chapter on FIPG Guidelines and Values-Based Decision Making through two separate events. The first event used soda, juice, and water in place of alcohol and had speakers discuss the risks of alcohol usage. Afterwards, the sisters applied it to their personal lives as to how these women can individually help reduce risky situations. This effort was also designed to align with the chapter's national values and truly understand FIPG more than just knowing what the rules are. It allowed each member to reflect on their personal decision and the impact it makes beyond themselves. This event was designed for members of this specific chapter, but was so popular that members of other chapters on campus were seen participating as well. The event received positive feedback from its members and across the institution, for its forward thinking in education, risk management, and ensuring students are prepared in the event of risk related situations. Additionally, the chapter had a post event discussion where they critically evaluated the effectiveness of their program and began to make modifications for better results for next year.

Panhellenic at Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Council Winner

The Panhellenic Associate at MIT created a program that seeks to enhance the ability of sorority chapters and leadership to educate their members on how to navigate risk and wellness issues in effective and high-impact ways. Their program is known as S.T.A.R. (Sorority Trainings for Addressing Risk); the current program was updated to be more interactive, so members participate in the programming and walk away with a greater sense of safety, and to complement the programming already being done on a chapter or national level. Specifically, the program has six modules, bystander intervention, mental health, and sexual assault awareness, which are scheduled annually, and substance abuse, women's health, and healthy relationships, which are scheduled biannually. To complete each module, the chapter's STAR Coordinator must work with the chapter in planning a program that covers one of those topics and has a minimum of 50% attendance. As a result of this program, chapters have become more interested in collaborations, cross-chapter trainings, and sharing resources in an effort to better educate their members and work towards the successful development of their members.

Greek Community at University of Rhode Island - Community Winner

The Greek community at the University of Rhode Island chose to focus on the topic of mental health and its relation to risk reduction. This community felt that as a whole, mental health is not given adequate attention and up until recently has been considered taboo, especially in fraternity and sorority life. As a result, they chose to create Mental Health Chairs. The role of these chairs is to serve as an additional source for students providing information of on and off campus resources. The hope is that these people will be able to help connect students and organizations with mental health professionals and to create more mental health programming as well as partnering with their risk manager to create safer events for members. Many students at this community would leave an organization due to balancing academics and organization responsibilities, and other personal reasons. The hope is that with the addition of this role, students will be able to have the resources to advocate for themselves.

Kappa Sigma at Stevens Institute of Technology - Honorable Mention

Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Stevens Institute of Technology chose to host a series of programs over the academic year focusing on risk reduction and education to help hold their brothers more accountable and ensure they are meeting both university and national policies. This year, the chapter chose to focus their education on mental health awareness and resources available. The men partnered with the Counseling and Psychological Resources Center (CAPS) to help train the brothers on how to recognize certain mental health issues and what resources are available. Additionally, to advocate for overall wellness, the brothers partners with a sorority on campus to host a yoga and mindfulness event on campus.

Chapter Development & Leadership

Alpha Omicron Pi at Bryant University - Chapter Winner

When it comes to successful organizations, most chapters host some type of leadership retreat to reflect on the effectiveness of the organization and plan for the future. The sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi host a retreat to reflect on the effectiveness of their chapter, personal growth as leaders, and the effectiveness in their roles, while also working with other chapters to learn best practices. The conference is designed to create higher attendance at programming during the year and generate more involvement and accountability of the chapter's success. Some examples of workshops during this conference include learning about healthy food choices and learning about their organization's philanthropy in more detail. This program left sisters inspired and taught them how our hardships and accomplishments affect our growth in becoming a leader.

Greek Senate at Kean University - Council Winner

The Greek Senate at Kean University hosts a large scale conference prior to the New Member Process to ensure the proper education of the entire community. The goal of this conference is to cultivate habits of discipline, academic and civic competence, as well as understanding how individuals are motivated and what activities and gestures are of most value to them. These students have a shared vision of aiming to become the finest version of themselves by leading through and from their values. The students who organized the conference began with an engaging and energizing topic in the morning, and kept them engaged all day through topics such as internal and external factors affecting their organization, mental health, and collaboration and support amongst other chapters. The most important part of this event is the reflection aspect. This conference is consistently growing and looking to improve itself. The students always assess their abilities and actions to see if they are aligning with their values and mission or if they are counterintuitive. They are not afraid to take a risk and make a change, and as a result continue to yield positive feedback from current students, alumni, and peers.

Fraternity and Sorority Community at New York Institute of Technology - Long Island - Community Winner

The fraternity and sorority community at NYIT recognizes that there is always room to grow as a fraternity/sorority community. Over this past summer, students worked with staff from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life to create Greek Academy in which organizations were able to create individualized performance plans. These plans allowed the community as a whole to work on areas of growth such as brand identity, growth versus fixed mindset, time management. In addition to the individualized plans, students participated in leadership development trainings on topics such as effective recruitment and retention, transparency between students and office staff, and general chapter management. While the program is still new, immediate improvements have been seen on campus and we look forward to their continued success.

Panhellenic at University of Rhode Island - Honorable Mention

The Panhellenic Association at the University of Rhode Island created a program entitled “The Junior Panhellenic.” During this year long program, first year members of each of the member sorority participate in bi-weekly programs focusing on topics with the goals of creating personal growth, community growth, and sisterhood across the chapters. The topics that are included in this program focus on education of the URI Greek System, leadership opportunities in the Greek system as well as other opportunities on campus, developing and understanding their leadership style, addressing Greek problems, and risk management. The reason behind this program is that newer members were not getting involved in their organization or on campus. As a result, there was a disconnect between leadership when older members would graduate. Through this program, women are able to grow in their leadership capability and contribute ideas from early on to help create positive change to their campus.

