



## 2022 Award Winners

### AMY VOJTA IMPACT AWARDS

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### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

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#### **Delta Zeta at Bryant University**

Delta Zeta partnered with the on campus Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and the Amica Center for Career Education to host a number of sessions on different topics where members could pick and choose what they went to based on interests and needs. Topics covered were common areas of downfall for college students and provided helpful tips and tricks to combat issues such as: interview preparation, internship/job searching, test preparation, and procrastination. Each member was able to attend workshops based on specific areas they were struggling with academically. The chapter was also able to highlight sisters' accomplishments, from receiving scholarships to seeing improvement on grades to getting through a tough point in the semester. This program helped sisters that had been struggling with the return to in-person classes or were frustrated with themselves.

#### **Panhellenic Council at Temple University**

The Panhellenic Council hosted a scholar's brunch to recognize the academic achievement of members of each of the four Greek councils. At the event, Panhellenic gave out awards to individuals and chapters who demonstrated the largest growth in GPA as well as the highest GPA. This event was a revamp of a previously larger event, allowing the council to focus on a smaller group of scholars and celebrating individuals who excelled academically during such a trying time. Transitioning to online learning was very difficult for many students, so being able to safely congratulate and celebrate such deserving scholars will hopefully encourage students to continue to excel.

#### **Greek Life at University of Rhode Island**

One of the core values of the University of Rhode Island fraternity/sorority community is scholarship. At the beginning of each semester, the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council academic chairs meet with each chapter academic chair individually to create an individualized plan for their chapter to assist them in leading scholarship programming throughout the semester. Some examples of initiatives and events that chapters have done include bringing in the URI Center for Career and Experiential Education, alumni networking events, resume workshops and group study sessions, and more. One challenge the community faces is assisting students of all majors and recognizing that all students learn differently. These scholarship positions were put in place to make sure that members of the community knew about the resources available to them and to help address their individual academic needs.

# CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP

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## **Panhellenic Council at Towson University**

The Panhellenic Council at Towson University has a diversity task force and wellness program initiative in place to enhance diversity and cultural awareness within Panhellenic and its affiliated chapters through educational programming, workshops, awareness campaigns, community fundraising, and more. The council collaborates with other councils in the community to build better relationships across cultural divides. The task force advocates for wellness in the Panhellenic community in terms of emotional and physical wellbeing through providing adequate resources and support. During the Fall semester, the task force was involved in facilitating conversations with chapter members regarding their racist or discriminatory behaviors. They knew that although uncomfortable, these behaviors needed to be addressed to better the Panhellenic community and the experience for diverse women.

## **Fraternity and Sorority Community at University of Connecticut**

Each year, the fraternity/sorority community at UConn hosts the Arete Leadership Academy (ALA) before the spring semester starts. ALA is designed for chapter presidents and all council executive board members to come together and engage in leadership development. The Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development (CFSD) team facilitates a variety of sessions for students on topics including motivating members, dealing with conflict, and leading with your values, and partners with an array of campus partners such as the UConn Leadership & Organization Development Office, Student Health and Wellness, the Student Care Team, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The 2021 ALA had a focus on mental health and wellbeing with the hopes that it would provide support for students throughout the year of virtual/remote learning and experiences.

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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## **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at University of Connecticut**

Budding Business was a collaborative event between the Kappa Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Minority Health Matters, the West Indian Students Organization at UConn and Brittany Bennet, who is a Cannabis Business Owner based in Springfield, MA. The mission was to expose students to the business side of the cannabis industry, educate them on the effects of marijuana on the body, and to discuss how the culture around marijuana has affected the Black community. The event touched on both how marijuana can affect your body functions and how the way you think about marijuana can affect other peoples' lives. Everyone left with a better understanding of how the United States' attitude towards marijuana and the stigma it held in the Black community increased incarceration rates.

## **Interfraternity Council at Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) suffered the unexpected deaths of four students, including at least two suicides (one of whom was a member of the Greek community) during the past year. In response to these events, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon initiated the idea of Greek Life collaborating with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) in order to create an event to bring further awareness to suicide prevention conversations and to bring the WPI Community together. The students decided to bring an AFSP Walk to campus for a half-day event that started with an opening ceremony from student organizers, AFSP representative Mike O'Leary, and guest singer Ricky Duran. The opening ceremony was followed by a walk around the WPI quadrangle that over 450 participants from 27 WPI student organizations participated in. Activities took place alongside the walk, including motivational card making, bracelet making with beads, AFSP donation booths, free apparel pickups, and more. Following a musical performance, students had an opportunity to share their stories and the impact they have felt from suicide in their lives.

## **Greek Life at University of Rhode Island**

In April 2021, URI Greek Life hosted their annual Greek Week where sororities and fraternities were paired together for a week of programming events, including raising money for charitable causes. Due to COVID-19, many of the events were held virtually. Over the course of the week, the community raised a total of \$94,000 for Amputee Blade Runners and Steps of Faith Foundation. These two nonprofit organizations provide prosthetic body parts and financial assistance to amputees in need. In addition to this, the students organized a sports drive and collected sports balls, bats, gloves, and more to donate to the local Boys and Girls Club in Providence, RI. In the fall semester, the community hosted their Philanthropy Week in person, raising funds for three local organizations with focuses on mental health advocacy and suicide prevention and awareness, raising over \$120,000 for three local organizations.

# MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT/INTAKE

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## **Chi Omega at University of Rochester**

The Xi Mu chapter of Chi Omega created an initiative to increase membership retention within their chapter. The women received special approval to shorten their new member period from seven weeks, a change that allowed the chapter to gain and initiate ten new members through formal recruitment, followed by 21 new members through continuous open bidding. The Xi Mu chapter values individuals who are willing to take initiative and fight for what they believe in, valuing strong leaders and those dedicated to bettering themselves, the chapter, Greek Life, and the greater community. After a mass disaffiliation in the summer of 2020 due to the Abolish Greek Life movement, the chapter was left at a size that was barely operational. The remaining members worked hard to be transparent with the state of their chapter and recruit women who fit their values by being upfront and honest.

## **Interfraternity Council at Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

The Interfraternity Council at WPI has a Recruitment Leader program, which is a recruitment initiative that has been growing since the mid-2010s. In this program, at least two fraternity members are selected from each chapter and they are trained on distributing information about fraternity life to the incoming WPI freshman class. Once the recruitment leaders are selected, they are trained on fair recruitment strategies, DEI knowledge, and given an explanation of their responsibilities in the pre-recruitment phase. Each recruitment leader is assigned a Dorm Hall Floor with around 20-30 freshman males, and is provided with means to contact these students. The program runs during the four school weeks leading up to the formal IFC recruitment period. Before and during recruitment, the leaders work hard to provide accurate and fair information to interested students, guiding them through the recruitment process. This past year IFC saw a 90% acceptance rate of bids - increasing the acceptance rate by 38%.

## **Panhellenic Council at Temple University**

Panhellenic Council at Temple has a credit course called Recruitment Counselor Development that introduces students to content and communication skills identified as integral to serving as a Recruitment Counselor. Through this course, students will become proficient guides to Temple and community resources, well-versed in college and academic success strategies, and equipped with interpersonal communication skills to deliver their message and reach fellow students. This past year was the first time this course was offered for credit. The structure of the course focused on three components of training peer mentors as discussed in Newtown and Ender (2010): knowledge of relevant subject matter, skill building, and personal insight and integration. The recruitment counselor course was designed to ensure that the counselors are well versed in values-based recruitment, as this is how Panhellenic strives to operate.

# MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES/PROGRAMMING

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## **Delta Delta Delta at Temple University**

In 2021, Tri Delta's Epsilon Phi chapter at Temple introduced affinity groups to their chapter. These affinity groups are separate group chats for members with a shared background or experience, with the purpose of providing a safe space for members to talk and support one another. These groups are optional and most importantly, confidential. The current affinity groups are: LGBTQ+, people of color, physical or neurological disabilities, self care, self love and stigmatized mental illnesses. There is at least one member of the DEI committee in each affinity group based on how the committee members identify, so no member is in a group that they do not feel they belong in. Members are always encouraged and welcomed to reach out to the chapter's Vice President of Community Relations to suggest improvements or new affinity group ideas.

## **National Pan-Hellenic Council at Rider University**

The Affinity Space event was a new event created around the 2020 presidential election as well as other elections that were happening across the nation. After discussing concerns for the election and how this may be affecting students in marginalized communities such as students of color or students that are part of the LGBTQ+ community, NPHC reached out to other student organizations to create this event that could highlight different topics that students felt were important. This event allowed for groups who often don't get together a way to support each other in the same fight for social justice and equality, and helped strengthen those connections so that these relationships can now continue with these groups.

## **Greek Life at Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

The Greek community collaborated with the Office of Multicultural Affairs to organize a workshop focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion within Greek Life. This virtual workshop was entitled "Recognizing Bias to Build an Inclusive Greek Organization" and consisted of a preparation exercise that provided valuable context for the workshop, followed by the actual workshop that included topics such as introduction and differences between micro- and macro-aggression, the meaning of the words diversity/equity/inclusion, and finally steps that Greek leaders can take to become more inclusive leaders. The workshop featured interactive Q&A sessions and virtual word clouds, as well as creating next steps for chapters and councils to take. Feedback forms were sent out 30, 60, and 90 days after the event, and councils were able to implement certain changes based on what they learned at the workshop.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS

## **Phi Sigma Sigma at Temple University**

During the pandemic, Phi Sigma Sigma at Temple created an Instagram account called PhitwithPhiSig to promote physical and mental wellness for their chapter members and followers. The account focuses on creating healthy and sustainable habits to promote physical and mental health. The account featured educational posts about zoom fatigue, healthy food swaps, how to avoid intimidation at the gym as a female, and other wellness-based topics. Testimonials were also used as well as Q&A posts. The chapter made sure to focus on holistic wellbeing and promoting body positivity rather than just exercise tips.

## **Intercultural Greek Council at University of Connecticut**

The Vice President of Marketing for the Intercultural Greek Council made it her goal to equally represent each of our diverse organizations through weekly posts: Meet the Greek Mondays, Trivia Tuesdays, Fun Fact Fridays, Neophyte and Alumnae Spotlights, IGC at a Glance, and council member takeovers. Within these series, a space was offered for members to express why they joined their organizations, what has been the most memorable moment they've had since joining, and what they've gained from being a part of Greek Life. It gives faces and stories to the organizations beyond what people may see on the surface. The PR strategy was to help educate the general student body about the cultural traditions, values, and history of the eleven organizations with the council.

## **Greek Life at Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

One of the pillars of success for the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Fraternity and Sorority Life community is to become an active member of the WPI and Worcester communities. To achieve this success, each year starts with a kickoff event geared towards supporting our community, entitled Work on Worcester. This is a full-day philanthropy effort where students collaborate with organizations in the greater Worcester community to complete service projects. In August 2021 ten organizations hosted service projects including park clean-ups, food donation collection, and trash removals. Keeping COVID restrictions in mind, the community was able to generate over 350 hours of community service through the volunteerism of more than 200 WPI undergraduate and graduate students. The main PR strategy of Work on Worcester is two-fold: 1) it allows the students of WPI to learn about the Worcester community in a way that the majority of college students rarely do, and give back to the community that many call home for four years; and 2) it allows the Worcester community to create a positive association with the WPI Fraternity and Sorority Life community, and can establish partnerships with organizations and nonprofits in the future.

# RISK REDUCTION

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## **Panhellenic Council at Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

The MIT Panhellenic Council implements the STAR (Sorority Trainings Addressing Risk) Program, an educational programming initiative related to training sorority members on issues of personal risk, health, and safety. Educational sessions include bystander intervention, substance abuse, mental health, women's health, sexual assault, various DEI topics, and healthy relationships. The program 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. Each sorority chapter is required to plan each of the six sessions, with additional "STAR badges" for those chapters with high attendance at these sessions. These workshops better position members to act as leaders and agents in daily situations they may come across as well as assist others in becoming better citizens with more responsible decision-making skills. In 2021, the STAR training curriculum was completely revamped in order to provide more incentive for membership involvement, greater flexibility to tackle timely topics, and a larger focus on peer-to-peer education.

## **Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development at University of Connecticut**

In Fall of 2020 the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development implemented an initiative for each chapter on campus to have their own individualized Risk Management Plan, Crisis Response, and Bystander Intervention resource document. The idea is for each chapter to take a proactive approach to risk management and critically examine the activities they are involved in such as recruitment, philanthropy events, and socials, with or without alcohol. Each semester, a chapter will have to look at their own respective resource document and review it within the first two chapter meetings of the semester with their membership. This initiative allows the chapters to take on the responsibility of providing a safe space for their members, and allows the chapters to think critically about the risks they take on at any given event or program.

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

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### GREEK LEADERS OF DISTINCTION

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#### **Jenna Matteo**, *Alpha Xi Delta at Temple University*

Jenna has served on the Panhellenic executive board for three consecutive terms, first as the Vice President of Programming and since as a two-term Panhellenic President. Jenna's goal has been to ensure women felt empowered and educated on critical topics pertinent to college students. In addition to serving in key Panhellenic council roles and leading 1,200 women, Jenna has also served in leadership roles within Alpha Xi Delta as the Programming Director and Director of Recruitment Events. She believes that leadership is action, not position and assures that others feel heard and that their opinions matter. During her tenure, she was able to create a Diversity and Inclusion Vice President on Panhellenic exec, create a local service partnership with Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, and facilitate a successful expansion of a new sorority, while growing continued partnerships with the campus community.

#### **Lily Steiger**, *Chi Omega at University of Rochester*

Lily has served as the President, Personnel Chair, Career & Personal Development Director, and Panhellenic Delegate of the Xi Mu chapter of Chi Omega. Through each of these positions, Lily has demonstrated a willingness to stand out to make positive change. After joining Chi Omega in Fall 2019 to a chapter of over 50 women, within a year she would be one of only seven women who remained in the chapter after a mass disaffiliation due to an Abolish Greek Life Movement. Lily could have taken an easier road and left the chapter with many of her friends during this time, but she chose to stay in the chapter and work towards making Chi Omega and the greater Panhellenic community a place that is not just diverse or inclusive or equitable, but all three. She has worked to better the chapter's relationship with their national organization, rebuilding the chapter and making it a priority for all involved. Lily's chapter describes her as someone who truly embodies not only the values of Chi Omega but also the vision statement that the chapter made in Fall of 2020: "The members of Xi Mu will be leaders guided by the values of our chapter and community, foster a welcome environment where all feel safe, and constantly work towards the betterment of the world."

#### **Cez Garcia**, *Sigma Phi Epsilon at University of Rochester*

Cez embodies the highest values of Sigma Phi Epsilon while also having impressive contributions and accomplishments in other campus leadership roles while inspiring other students to reach their full potential. During the Abolish Greek Life movement in 2020, Cez was one of the students of color who felt pressured to leave his chapter despite finding it to be an imperfect but important place of belonging for him. He participated in conversations that summer which led to the creation of Our Space, an initiative for supporting BIPOC students within the fraternity and sorority community. Cez believes in mentoring others, in giving them opportunities to help them grow, and to being a role model within his chapter and community. Although he has a quiet and understated demeanor, he quickly rises to leadership positions in his fraternity and other organizations due to his responsible and hardworking nature.

**Maren Drake, *Chi Omega at University of Rhode Island***

Maren has served on the Panhellenic Council as the Vice President of Operations, as well as Council President during and now moving out of one of the most difficult times through the COVID-19 pandemic. During her time as Panhellenic President, Maren dedicated her time to foster relationships within her executive board to ensure positive working relationships and mentor the chapter presidents to develop a cooperative cohort of sorority leaders who trust her advisement and support. She has led her executive board through the pandemic, racial unrest, and expansion in the most difficult of circumstances. Maren has found a way to balance all of her priorities, while being such a positive person to be around.

**Michael Mulryan, *Pi Kappa Phi at Quinnipiac University***

After taking time to focus on healing from an injury during his freshman year, Michael joined Pi Kappa Phi as a sophomore and immediately ran for the IFC Vice President of Recruitment and Philanthropy role when it had an unexpected vacancy. His goal was to have a positive impact on campus and decided he would take advantage of this opportunity, going above and beyond his duty to greatly benefit the community around him. Michael set new highs at Quinnipiac regarding the number of men recruited into fraternities during his tenure, but his greatest achievement was done through his philanthropic work, raising thousands of dollars for the Connecticut Cancer Foundation through his No Shave November initiative. As the IFC President, Michael led long, intense, and influential general body meetings that lit a fire among the attendees to want to do better in the community. His immediate three intentions for the role were to mentor and train the rest of his executive board, build relationships with the chapter presidents, between presidents, and between the presidents and IFC, and provide high quality, engaging programming for fraternity men on campus as sober alternatives to parties with alcohol during the on-going pandemic.

**Aracelis Figueroa, *Sigma Lambda Upsilon Sorority, Inc. at University of Connecticut***

Aracelis served as the Intercultural Greek Council president where she focused on strengthening the relationships among all IGC chapters at a time when some chapters who were previously unrecognized had returned to the on-campus Greek community. She recognized the need for space to allow the healing of these relationships among chapters, while also encouraging opportunities for them to collaborate and work together as a way of reforming connections. Aracelis created an IGC Unity Week with events that facilitated stronger relationships among all chapters including connections between Latinx, Asian, South Asian, and Multicultural based organizations, where previously the strongest chapter relationships were between those of the same cultural interest. She also created a series of three leadership events over the course of a semester to allow members to further develop their leadership skills, focusing on topics including: membership retention, using your affiliation for professional purposes, and other tips for marketing the Greek life experience beyond the undergraduate career.

## BONNIE WUNSCH VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

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**Joe Gurreri**, *Lambda Chi Alpha, Gettysburg College*

Joe has been an incredible resource, partner, and ultimately, leader of our organization since he began volunteering with NGLA. Most notably, however, is his incredible vision in leading NGLA's annual conference through the ongoing pandemic. His ability to manage a complete overhaul in our operations with an inspiring level of calmness and positivity. With his leadership we were able to broaden the access to our educational programming and even launch new programming aligned with the organization's mission. Over the years Joe has served NGLA by improving the Student Staff experience, helping us to host in Baltimore for the first time in 2020, and serving as the Assistant Conference Chair and now the Conference Chair.

## GUENZLER AWARD

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**Dana A. Lopes**, *Rider University, Advisor for Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.*

Dana has served as the campus chapter advisor for the Iota Chapter of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., at Rider University. The men of the chapter feel that Dana is a major part of the school and chapter operations, working diligently to support all members of the chapter in adjusting to virtual learning and operations, and then back to in-person. She has done a tremendous amount of work learning about the chapter from reviewing bylaws, to learning about traditions and challenging the men in all that they do, including meeting individually with each brother, getting to know them. The men wrote in their nomination: "What most people do not realize is that being an advisor is not a paid position, they volunteer an enormous amount of time and energy to us. She's always available to talk and run ideas by, no matter what day of the week or what time it is (as long as it is not past 11pm when she turns into a pumpkin)."

## PHILIPPI AWARD

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**Avery Moses**, *Pi Beta Phi, Quinnipiac University*

Avery has created a lasting impact at Quinnipiac during the four years she has been the Assistant Director of Campus Life for Fraternity & Sorority Life. She has modeled exceptional ethical leadership and values consistently while constantly standing up for and saying what is right in front of the students. Throughout the past year, Avery worked hard to challenge the students to think critically, especially in terms of events with inherent risk. She created a new training process for hosting events with alcohol, as well as having individual conversations with chapter officers as they planned events, something that had been on pause throughout the pandemic and leaders struggled to understand the level of risk these events included. In addition to her campus role, Avery volunteers with her organization, Pi Beta Phi, Circle of Sisterhood, and NGLA.

## JOSETTE KAUFMAN AWARD

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### **Panhellenic Council at Quinnipiac University**

During the National Eating Disorders Awareness week (NEDA week), Panhellenic Council at Quinnipiac hosted a virtual event with the founder of Little Words Project, focusing on mental health and wellness through empowering yourself. The presentation and discussion was to show women within the community that how much you can accomplish when you are able to believe in yourself, empowering yourself and others. Focusing on the topic of eating disorders and the effects of daily life on body image, the speaker really highlighted the importance of utilizing others for support to prevent burnout when taking on something you love. Attendees were also gifted with a bracelet from LWP to continue to inspire them. At the conclusion of the event, the speaker answered many questions regarding starting a business, mental health, and more, giving the community an “open forum” opportunity to connect with an empowering successful businesswoman.

## HANK NUWER AWARD FOR HAZING PREVENTION

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### **Greek Council at Rider University**

For the first back-to-in-person National Hazing Prevention Week, Rider University Greek Council students hoped to increase awareness of the ramifications of hazing, preventative measures, and re-dedicate members to anti-hazing efforts. They used the week as an opportunity to remind students of the policies and expectations related to hazing prevention, utilizing programming to bring focus to and commemorate the 14th anniversary of the passing of Gary DeVercelly Jr. due to a fraternity hazing ritual. In an event entitled “Let’s Get Real About Hazing,” aimed to not only bring awareness to the story of what happened 14 years ago, but also to challenge attendees to have honest conversations about hazing and its threat to the fraternal experience. After an interactive exercise in groups, attendees watched a tribute documentary that comprehensively detailed the story of what happened, the first time that many students were learning about the fatal incident. To conclude the event, students signed a pledge committing themselves to fighting against hazing.

