

## Manual of Information

The 23rd edition of the NPC Manual of Information is now available. The 2017 legislative changes are included in this edition, along with other updates to streamline the content. [Download](#) it from the NPC website under Resources (no password is required). You also can purchase a hard copy from the NPC store.

## NPC Foundation Scholarships

The NPC Foundation will award six scholarships in 2018. Details about each, along with the online application, can be found on the NPC website [here](#). The application deadline is March 15.

## Update: NPC's "Call for Critical Change"

NPC has issued a "Call for Critical Change," the reasons for which NPC Chairman Carole Jones recently explained to US News, "The campus tragedies our fraternity and sorority communities have experienced in recent months reinforce that we have an obligation and duty to redouble our efforts on campus safety ... The sorority community can, and must, do its part to create safer campus cultures where students advocate for one another." ([Read the article.](#))

A first step in NPC's "Call for Critical Change" was to convene leading campus administrators, subject-matter experts and national sorority leadership to develop a framework of recommendations. These leaders met on Jan. 11 in Indianapolis.

The group discussed a number of topics, including the current climate of campuses across the U.S., what member organizations and colleges/universities are doing to help mitigate risk and the differences in actions on campuses toward fraternity/sorority communities not typically taken with other student organizations.

The group also identified specific recommendations as a result of the discussions and next steps.

Look for additional updates from NPC in the coming months.

## Dear friends ...

Despite some challenging weather on the first day, NPC volunteers and staff enjoyed another successful College Panhellenic Academy in mid-January for nearly 275 participants. Special thanks to all who joined us for this educational training. We now are focused on meeting with you and your College Panhellenic officers at the regional conferences, CCWL, AFLV Central, NGLA and AFLV West. Check the schedule for NPC meetings with area advisors and presidents/advisors.

At some of the regional conferences, we will be hosting a joint IFC/Panhellenic academy featuring eight officer tracks. The track for scholarship officers will be especially timely to discuss ways the College Panhellenics can promote and foster academic excellence. February is also NPC's Month of the Scholar. In this newsletter, we are sharing with you some information on how you can support the academic performance of sorority members and be aware of areas that impact the climate for Panhellenic academic success.

Thank you for your service to College Panhellenics. Please let me know if there is anything NPC can do to assist you.



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Panhellenics chairman

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## Celebrating women's history

March is Women's History Month (WHM) and that is why International Badge Day will be celebrated Monday, March 5, 2018.

We encourage you and your college Panhellenic to engage with NPC during WHM and International Badge Day. Here's how:

- Watch the new NPC video "[Courage and Conviction](#)" to learn more about sorority women and their impact on the world.
- Share stories on social media of women from your College Panhellenic Community — collegians and alumnae — in academics, labor or business and tag with #Iwearabadge.
- Tag social posts from your International Badge Day celebrations using #badgeday18.
- Retweet, share and regram WHM and #badgeday18 stories posted on NPC social media.
- Wear your badge proudly on March 5, or whatever day your campus is able to celebrate.

Look for more information on NPC's social media channels soon.

## **SCHOLAR: Successful Collegians Honing Outstanding Literature And Research Skills!**

By Beth Saul, former NPC chairman, current Alpha Epsilon Phi NPC delegation member and retired director for the office of fraternity and sorority leadership development at the University of Southern California

Let's start at the beginning ... Phi Beta Kappa ... and go to each National Panhellenic Conference member organization's roots in the Panhellenic Creed: "We, as Undergraduate members of women's fraternities, stand for good scholarship, ..."

These roots are inescapably entwined with the academic mission of host institutions and the duty to ensure strong academic performance for members. So, the timeless question of "how do we accomplish this outcome" deserves focus, reflection and discussion. This is especially true in light of today's fraternity/sorority community, the high cost of a college education, risk-management challenges and wide-sweeping institutional decisions.

Let's look at four areas that impact the climate for Panhellenic academic success.

**Data:** How does your Panhellenic community stand with the overall women's freshmen GPA average, the all-women's average, each class's academic average and the four- and six-year graduation rates? Do you publicize this data if it is positive, or work to minimize the gap each semester if it needs improvement? Do you challenge each chapter, in every council, to exceed the achievement level of its peers?

This February, the NPC Month of the Scholar, is an opportune time to launch a Panhellenic initiative that challenges chapters to reach higher achievement levels and increases their understanding of how your administration evaluates the institution's benchmarks. Reflect on how you can present any positive data points to your administration, the press, your constituency, prospective members and parents. Positive data may increase the recruitment pool and chapter pride. NPC data for the past year showed 75-79 percent of reporting College Panhellenics exceeded the all-women's average.

***Bravo if your College Panhellenic is in that group, but we all can, and must, do better!***

**Your leadership and attitude:** What is your personal priority for fraternity/sorority academic achievement? Are you concerned with a member's life as a student before her life as a member or leader? Do you write strong recommendations for study abroad, special programs, graduate and professional school, internships and job applications? I know this can

be time consuming, but how great the professional satisfaction when you know your student (leader) has reached her next life goal.

### **Leadership extends to the Panhellenic Executive Board and the Panhellenic academic officer:**

Is there a GPA board requirement that reflects excellence? Is it upheld during the entire leadership year? Does the academic officer have an appropriate budget? Are events and programming well publicized and put on the calendar early? Is there an intellectual discussion question (e.g., campus issues, professor/class recommendations, internship announcements, honor society, etc.) on the Panhellenic agenda? Are key academic calendar dates, such as last day to change class schedule or last day to withdraw with a "W," also listed on the Panhellenic calendar? Are Panhellenic recognitions valued by their peers? This last question warrants some time during officer transition and board goal setting. It's OK to break traditions and start new ones that will have a more robust academic impact!

### **Panhellenic recognition inside and outside of your institution:**

If your all-Panhellenic average exceeds the all-women's average, have you mentioned this benchmark to your colleagues and administration and reported it to NPC? If your all-Greek average exceeds the all-University average, have you reported it to Gamma Sigma Alpha National Greek Honor Society for recognition on the Greek Honor Roll? Look for the opportunity to submit your information through email from Gamma Sigma Alpha and be recognized at your respective regional conference. It would give additional recognition to your fraternity/sorority community scholars to have an active [Gamma Sigma Alpha](#) chapter at your institution.

The ultimate survival of fraternities and sororities may in part depend on the zest and accomplishment of supporting the academic mission. Please take some time to reflect on the many ways you already support this mission and the countless new ideas that will make your support even more effective. Each of the NPC member organizations is depending on your efforts, and your students and the entire fraternity/sorority community will benefit from your journey toward greater academic support and the pursuit of excellence!