

May 12, 2020

Dear NPC partners,

As semesters begin to conclude on many of your campuses, we offer our thanks on behalf of all 26 member organizations of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) for your leadership throughout the last few months. Faced with remarkable uncertainty, our collegiate members and alumnae volunteers continue to benefit from the creativity and expanded support from fraternity/sorority advisors and campus officials. Similarly, it is our hope your teams have felt they had a partner in our organizations as well.

Since March, NPC has convened two different task forces, comprised of campus-based professionals and member organization leaders from across the country, to consider and plan for the adjustments required by COVID-19 on everything from Panhellenic operations, chapter operations and recruitment. As a sorority community, we will be prepared to help rebuild a sense of community on campuses and do our part as vital members of your campus cultures. We're committed to keeping you abreast of our efforts through open lines of communication with you and your teams in the months ahead.

To that end, we write to you today with an update on Panhellenic community-wide planning taking place as our inter/national organizations, College Panhellenics and individual chapters look ahead to a fall semester likely to be marked by continued social distancing and continued disruptions to campus culture and operations.

Health and Safety

First, our priority will continue to center on the safety of students, volunteers and the campus professionals (faculty and staff) with whom they interact. We also know each campus will make choices based on the latest data and recommendations from public health officials.

We will continue to work hand-in-hand with partners from across the industry to ensure our community can best follow guidance that may come from you, our campus partners and the public health community. This includes collaboration with food service providers, property management companies and insurance and risk management partners aimed at sharing best practices or coordinating to pool resources to acquire key cleaning supplies or other needed materials.

The Role of Sorority Community in COVID-19 Era

Second, we've long believed that the best of a strong sisterhood was never about a chapter facility or specific place, but about the support systems young women can create for one another and the lifelong bonds they can form.

These supports will be even more important this fall and in the year ahead. For both returning and first-year students, we know our organizations can provide much need points of community connection – in person or virtually. With Phi Sigma Sigma's *DETOUR* and Sigma Kappa's *Pivot* initiatives already in place, our member organizations are standing up similar programs aimed at ensuring that a sense of community can be created in both in-person and virtual settings.

We also know sorority women are more likely to be involved with other campus organizations and sorority membership correlates with stronger student



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PROUDLY REPRESENTING 26 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ALPHA CHI OMEGA
ALPHA DELTA PI
ALPHA EPSILON PHI
ALPHA GAMMA DELTA
ALPHA OMICRON PI
ALPHA PHI
ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA
ALPHA SIGMA TAU
ALPHA XI DELTA
CHI OMEGA
DELTA DELTA DELTA
DELTA GAMMA
DELTA PHI EPSILON
DELTA ZETA
GAMMA PHI BETA
KAPPA ALPHA THETA
KAPPA DELTA
KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA
PHI MU
PHI SIGMA SIGMA
PI BETA PHI
SIGMA DELTA TAU
SIGMA KAPPA
SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA
THETA PHI ALPHA
ZETA TAU ALPHA

persistence and sense of belonging. To that end, we see an opportunity for sorority women to play a vital role in shaping and re-building community on campuses nationwide.

Our Preparation and Adaptation

Third, our task forces are considering the many ways in which College Panhellenic communities may require new support systems, policies and procedures this fall. We are preparing, for example, to ensure fall recruitment activities can continue uninterrupted – virtually if needed. Policies regarding continuous recruiting and other opportunities for chapter growth are being adjusted, among many others.

We are also proposing careful reviews of recruitment registration fees and chapter dues to make the sorority experience as accessible as possible to all students. And, of course, we're partnering with member organizations to ensure they are providing clear guidance to their chapters and ensuring they are prepared to manage distancing requirements.

Resources Available to Your Campus

Finally, we know the sorority community is just one element of the vibrant student culture on your campus. With that in mind, our hope is that we, at NPC, can be a resource to you and your staff – helping to extend the reach of your team.

We have launched our [COVID-19 Resources for College Panhellenics](#) web page where we will provide an array of materials that may be helpful to you, your College Panhellenic leadership, fraternity/sorority advisors and/or other staff. This hub for NPC information will ultimately include updates to community best practices, explanations of key policy changes and other updates from NPC leadership.

We feel privileged to work with so many dedicated student affairs professionals and we look forward to collaborating with you as we navigate this uncertain period together. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to update you – particularly when new materials have been shared on our COVID hub.

We wish you the best as you close out the spring term, and we look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



Carole J. Jones
Chairman, National Panhellenic Conference



Dani Weatherford, JD
CEO, National Panhellenic Conference