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Lexington, Va. – Sigma Nu Fraternity was recognized as a recipient of the 2011 Prevention Excellence Award during a ceremony held in conjunction with the 2011 NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) annual conference in Philadelphia, PA. Sigma Nu received the award in recognition of the Fraternity’s continuing efforts to provide excellent alcohol misuse and hazing prevention programs to its members.

Presented annually by Outside the Classroom, the Prevention Excellence Awards honor individuals, institutions, and Greek organizations that have achieved excellence in prevention efforts. Finalists are selected by a panel of prevention experts.

“We are deeply honored to receive the Prevention Excellence Award,” said Sigma Nu’s Executive Director Brad Beacham. “Our Fraternity was founded at VMI on the principle of honor and in direct opposition to hazing, so we take very seriously our obligation to provide excellent prevention and educational programs and resources for our collegiate members. This honor would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff team, board of directors, alumni volunteers, student leaders and Educational Foundation.

Sigma Nu received highest honors in the Greek category for its dedication to the health and safety of its student members. The Fraternity’s comprehensive alcohol misuse and hazing prevention programs and strategies include:

- GreekLifeEdu – a primary prevention program that incorporates evidence-based prevention methods
- Social media initiatives and social marketing campaigns like the 40 Answers campaign
- Peer education programs such as those found in the award-winning LEAD Program
- A host of risk reduction resources aimed at eliminating hazing and supporting healthy choices

“Sigma Nu Fraternity has established itself as a pioneer in the Greek community through innovative approaches to eliminating hazing,” said Brandon Busteded, founder and CEO of Outside the Classroom. “The organization’s ‘40 Answers in 40 Days’ Twitter campaign attracted many of the best minds in Greek life to provide swift, reasoned, and concise arguments against the most common excuses for hazing, and the program was a tremendous success. Through this and other innovative practices, Sigma Nu is paving the way toward state-of-the-art prevention approaches that will inform and change the field.”

A full report from Outside the Classroom on the Prevention Excellence Awards program and overall winners can be found at <http://www.outsidetheclassroom.com/news-events/news/press-releases/PEA-2011.aspx>.

Headquartered in Lexington, Va., Sigma Nu Fraternity was founded in 1869 at Virginia Military Institute and currently has 177 active chapters and colonies on college campuses throughout North America.

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