



**Sigma Nu Fraternity**

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# **Alumni Institute Webinar**

**January 21, 2026**

# Today's Presenter

**Todd Denson**

**Director of Alumni Advisory Programs**

**Nicholls State - (Lambda Lambda)**

**Bill Geddy**

**Southeast Beta Division Commander**

**Georgia Southern - (Theta Kappa)**



# Program Topics

- **Best Practices for working with Today's College Students**
- **Chapter Advisor and Alumni Advisory Board Member Best Practices**
- **Resources Available to Advisors**



# **Best Practices for Working with Today's College Student**



**Building Relationships with students  
takes:**

**Communication**

**Confidence**

**Trust**

# **Best Practices for Working with Today's College Student**

## **Communication**

**State Expectations**  
**Establish Goals**  
**Share your**  
Calendars  
Schedules  
Appreciation

## **Confidence**

**Provide**  
**Positive Direction**  
**Guidance**  
**Assistance**

## **Trust**

**Honor Commitments**  
**Keep confidential**  
**matters confidential**





# Best Practices for Working with Today's College Student

## Effective Advising

Be a role model

Hold the chapter to high standards

Clearly establish your role with the chapter

Ask for input

Give them respect

# How to be an Effective Advisor

**Work most closely with the chapter officers**

**Be cautious of talking about the past**

**Allow mistakes to be made**

**Build on an officer's strengths**

**Function as a liaison**

*When RESPECT and COURTESY are shared,  
responsibilities to each other are easily fulfilled.*



## **Habits of Successful Advisors**

**Make yourself available**

**Increase your knowledge base**

**Support Chapter Officers in decisions that they have reached jointly**

**Be familiar with University policies, chapter bylaws, The Law, and support officers and chapters in upholding these rules**

**Exemplify the ideals of Sigma Nu Fraternity**



## Increase Your Knowledge Base

- **Utilizing the many resources available to you through the Fraternity's website**
- **Having frequent communication with the Headquarters staff**
- **Utilizing additional volunteers**



# **Utilizing the many resources available to you through the Fraternity's website**

**Officer Manuals**

**The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity**

**The Risk Reduction Policy**

**Health and Safety Resources**

**The LEAD Program**

**Pursuit of Excellence Program**

**Important Due Dates**



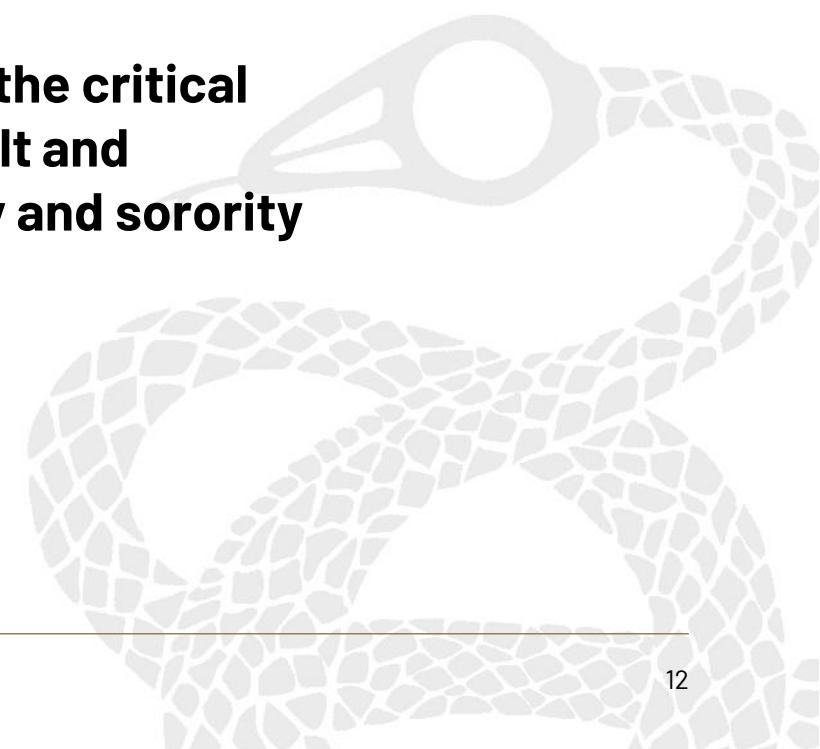
# Important Due Dates

- **College of Chapters Jan 3-6, 2026**
- **Sigma Nu Institutes:**
  - **Saturday, Jan. 24 (Virtual) - 1:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern**
  - **Saturday, Jan. 31 (In person) - 12:45-5:30 p.m. Local time**
    - Lexington, Virginia
    - Los Angeles, California
  - **Saturday, February 7 (In person)**
    - Atlanta, Georgia
    - Springfield, Missouri
    - Urbana-Champaign, Illinois
- **Membership and Officer Roster Updates - Due Jan 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Or by end of second week of school, whichever is later**
  - **Candidate and Initiation Verifications Due within 72 hours of Ceremony**



# Important Due Dates

- **Feb 15th Risk Reduction Affidavit Due**
- **Founders Month of Service/Help Hand Initiative - April**
- **Pursuit of Excellence Submissions - Due April 30**
- **Tightrope - Due May 1**
  - **Online education and prevention program-addressing the critical issues of alcohol awareness, drug abuse, sexual assault and misconduct, hazing, and mental wellness for fraternity and sorority members.**



## College of Chapters (January 3-6)

**Intense, interactive program focused on chapter management, leadership, and core competencies.**

**The curriculum is designed to ensure each Commander has the knowledge and skills necessary to strengthen his chapter and to develop a network of support and experience**

[sigmanu.org/cofcresources](http://sigmanu.org/cofcresources)

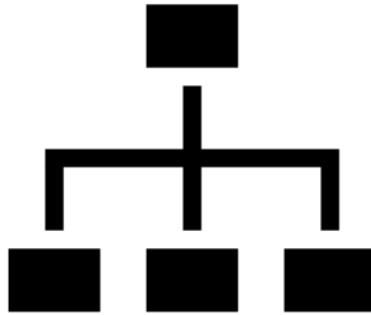


# College of Chapters Action Plan



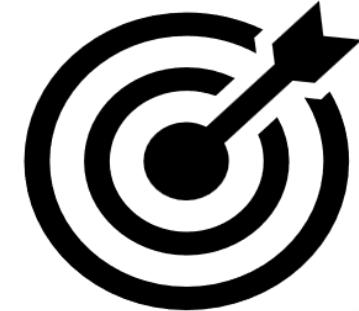
## **Vision (The Why)**

Where your chapter is going and what it will become



## **Strategies (The How)**

Mini-visions related to key areas in the chapter – how to get from where you are to where you're trying to go



## **Goals (The What)**

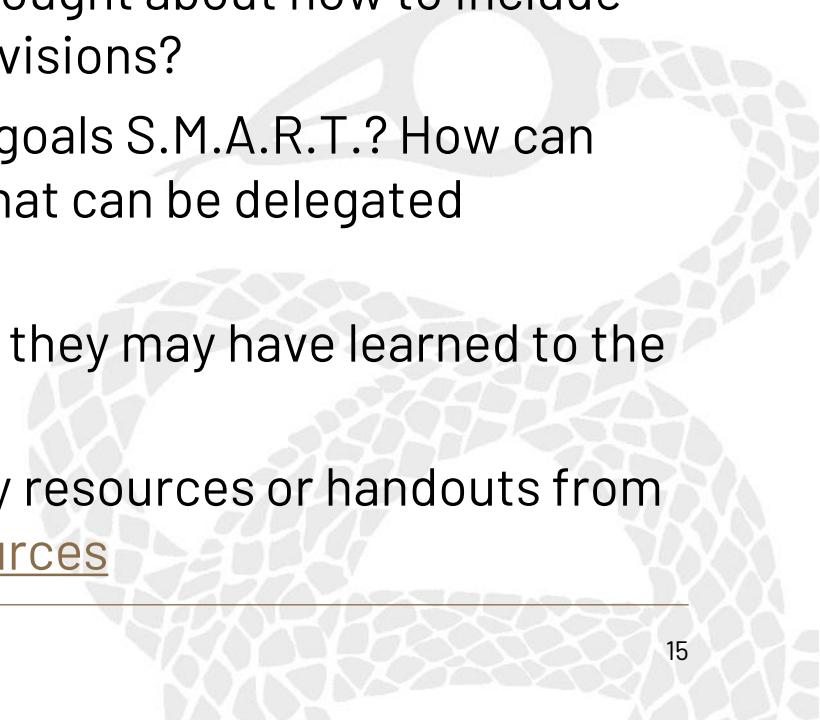
Turn-by-turn instructions for reaching your designation (vision) – this is what we specifically need to do to achieve our strategies

# College of Chapters Follow-Up

What should be occurring by now? What could advisors be doing to help support progress?

- Has the participant debriefed with advisors regarding plans and commitments from CofC? Have volunteers provided them feedback?
- Participants were encouraged to take their vision and transform into a shared vision among all members. Have they made their vision known to the Executive Committee yet? Are they building a coalition of support around their vision? Have they thought about how to include others in discussions about how their vision aligns with others' visions?
- Do the strategies and goals in their plan make sense? Are their goals S.M.A.R.T.? How can their strategies and goals be developed into actionable items that can be delegated accordingly?
- Has the participant made plans to present any new information they may have learned to the chapter? How can you help in that process?

All program materials - participant manual, session slides, and any resources or handouts from specific elective sessions can be found at [sigmanu.org/cofcresources](http://sigmanu.org/cofcresources)



# Alumni Engagement Series Webinar: Supporting the Commander's College of Chapters Action Plan and Chapter Goal Setting



# Sigma Nu Institute

Virtual

**January 24 1:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern**

**12 officer tracks designed to complement the College of Chapters program experienced by Commanders.**

**Designed to assist with the officer transition process and learning curve that accompanies taking on new positions of chapter leadership. (For newly elected & mid-term officers)**

**Attendees will learn about key Fraternity programs, policies, and procedures.**



# Sigma Nu Institute

## In-Person

**Saturday, January 31: 12:45-5:30 p.m. (local time)**

- Lexington, Va. - Sigma Nu Headquarters
- Los Angeles, Calif.

**Saturday, February 7: 12:45-5:30 p.m. (local time)**

- Atlanta, Ga.
- Springfield, Mo.
- Urbana-Champaign, Ill.

**These events will focus on executive roles:**

**Executive - Lt. Commanders & Treasurers**

**Member Development - Marshals & LEAD Chairmen**

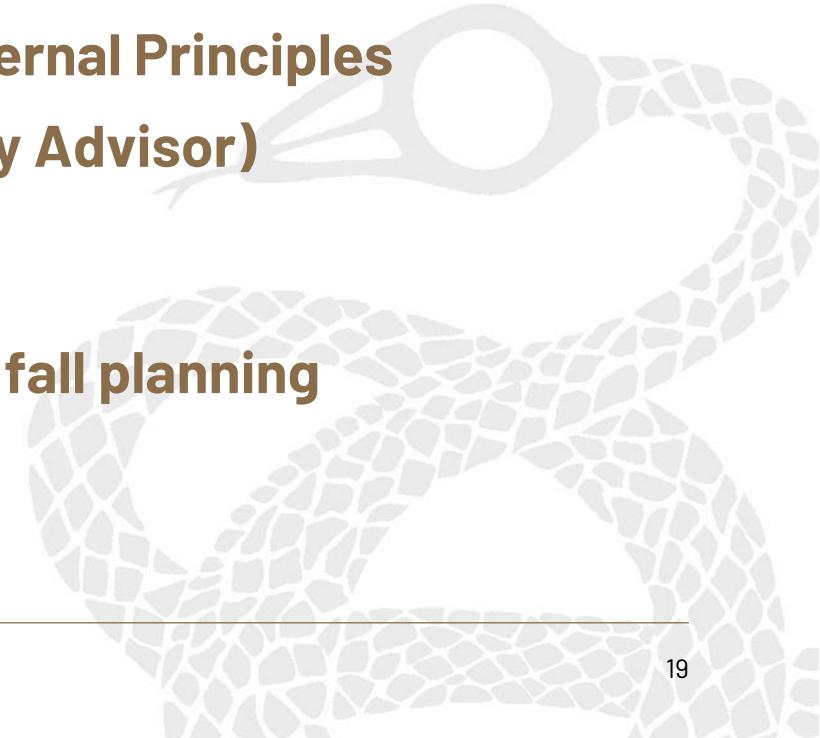
**Recruitment - Recruitment Chairmen**

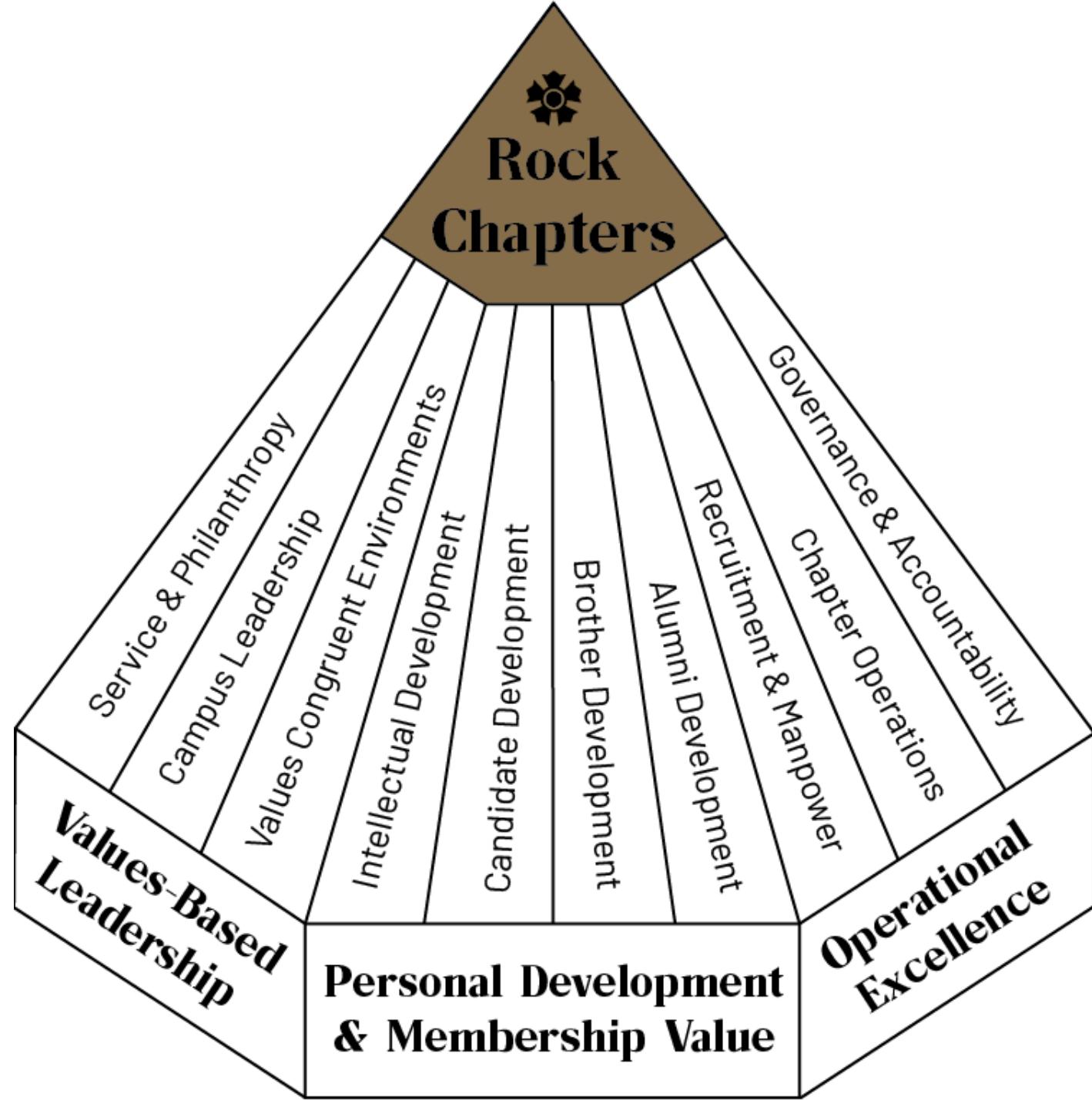
**Related officers and committee members are encouraged to attend if a local option is available in your area**



# Spring '26 Consultations

- **In-Person Consultations – January-April (2 days/chapter)**
  - Officer meetings
  - Executive Committee
  - Candidates (informational, LEAD session)
  - Chapter workshop on *Risk Reduction Policy* and Fraternal Principles
  - Advisor meetings (Chapter/AAB, Fraternity/Sorority Advisor)
- **Potential for Virtual Check-Ins - April**
  - End-of-year programs & expectations, summer and fall planning





# The Pursuit of Excellence Submission Due April 30



# Alumni Advisory Board Overview

*When college days are through,*

*We still will cling to you.*

*Loyal and true,*

*To you old Sigma Nu.*



# Primary Expectations of Alumni Advisory Boards

**Three or more volunteers will serve on the Alumni Advisory Board**

**Member(s) of Alumni Advisory Board attend chapter meetings once a month (or more often)**

**Member(s) of Alumni Advisory Board attend all candidate and initiation ceremonies**

**Meet quarterly (or more often) to review chapter goals and objectives**

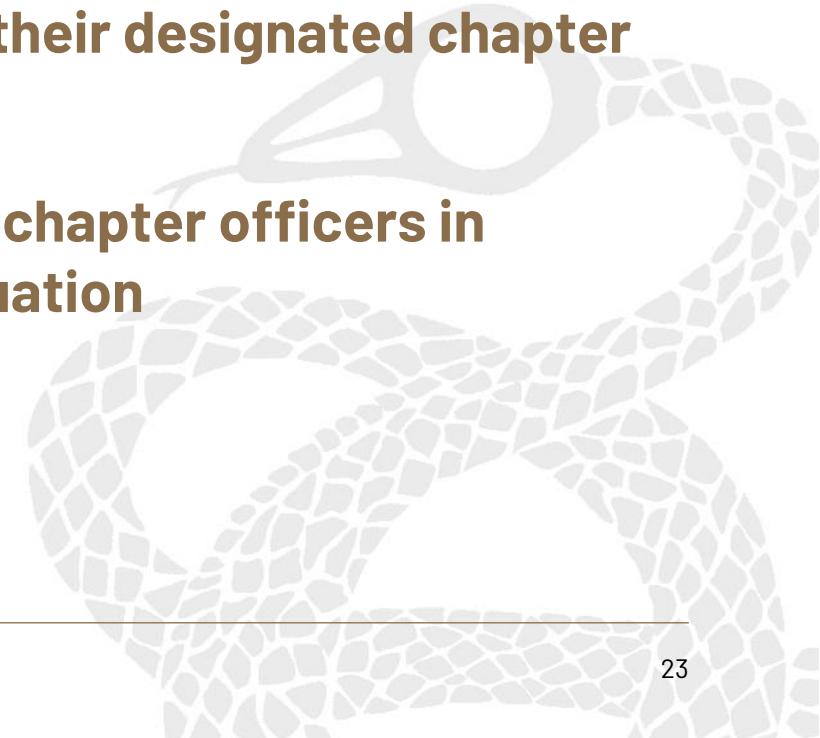
# **Primary Expectations**

**Facilitate an officer transition workshop each election cycle**

**Facilitate a strategic planning session with measurable goals and objectives with the chapter leadership each year**

**Individual advisors maintain monthly communication with their designated chapter officer(s) to offer mentoring/coaching advice**

**Member(s) of Alumni Advisory Board assist and advise the chapter officers in completing the annual Pursuit of Excellence Program evaluation**



## Primary Expectations Cont.

**Review The *Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., the Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines*, and relevant college/university policy each year**

**Continually identify, recruit, and train new Board members to ensure the sustainability of the Board**

**Member(s) of Alumni Advisory Board meet with the Leadership Consultant during each consultation visit**



# Recommended Positions for Alumni Advisory Boards

**Board Chairman**

**Chapter Advisor**

**Financial Advisor**

**Recruitment Advisor**

**LEAD Advisor**

**Alumni Relations Advisor**

**Social Advisor**

**Risk Reduction Advisor**

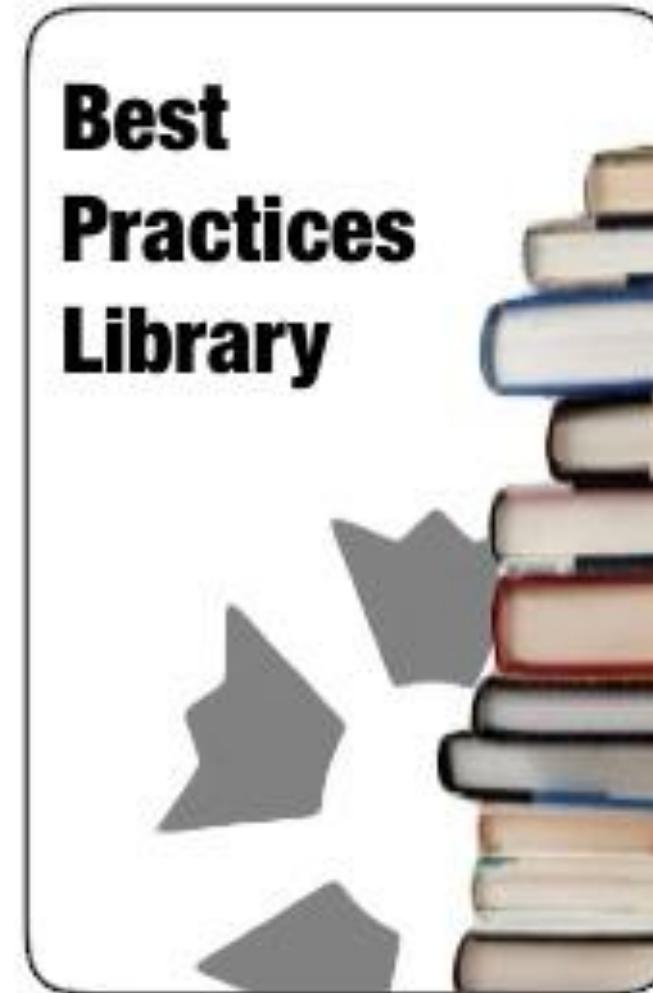
# Practices of Successful Alumni Advisory Boards

- **Communication**
- **Board Meetings**
  - Consistent
  - Meet Regularly
  - Require Attendance
  - Include Chapter Officers
- **Recruiting for the future**



# Alumni Resources

- [Alumni Advisory Boards](#)
- [House Corporations](#)
- [Alumni Development](#)
- [Alumni Engagement](#)





# Resources

- **Chapter Officer Manuals**
- **The LEAD Program**
- **The Pursuit of Excellence Program**
- **Human Resources**
  - Division Commanders
  - Campus and community Professionals
  - Staff



Sigma Nu Fraternity

# Alumni Engagement Series Webinars



UPCOMING WEBINAR

**BECOME A SIGMA NU VOLUNTEER**

Wednesday, November 5, 2025  
5:00 - 6:00 PM ET/2:00 - 3:00 PM PT

REGISTER TODAY  
[SIGMANU.ORG/WEBINARS](http://SIGMANU.ORG/WEBINARS)

**Sigma Nu Fraternity**  
EXCELLING WITH HONOR



FREE WEBINAR

**SIGMA NU MENTOR NETWORK UPDATE**

Wednesday, May 7, 2025  
5:00 - 6:00 PM ET/2:00 - 3:00 PM PT

REGISTER TODAY  
[SIGMANU.ORG/WEBINARS](http://SIGMANU.ORG/WEBINARS)

**Sigma Nu Fraternity**  
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# Alumni Engagement Series Webinars



Future Webinars - [Sigmanu.org/webinars](http://Sigmanu.org/webinars)





# Questions?



# Thank You!

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**Resource Links:**  
**Alumni Advisory Board Overview**  
**Alumni Best Practices Library**  
**Division Commanders**  
**Chapter Consultation and Support**

