



**Sigma Nu Fraternity**

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# **Alumni Institute Webinar**

**January 21, 2025**

# Today's Presenter

**Todd Denson**

**Director of Alumni Advisory Programs**

**Nicholls State University**



# 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**

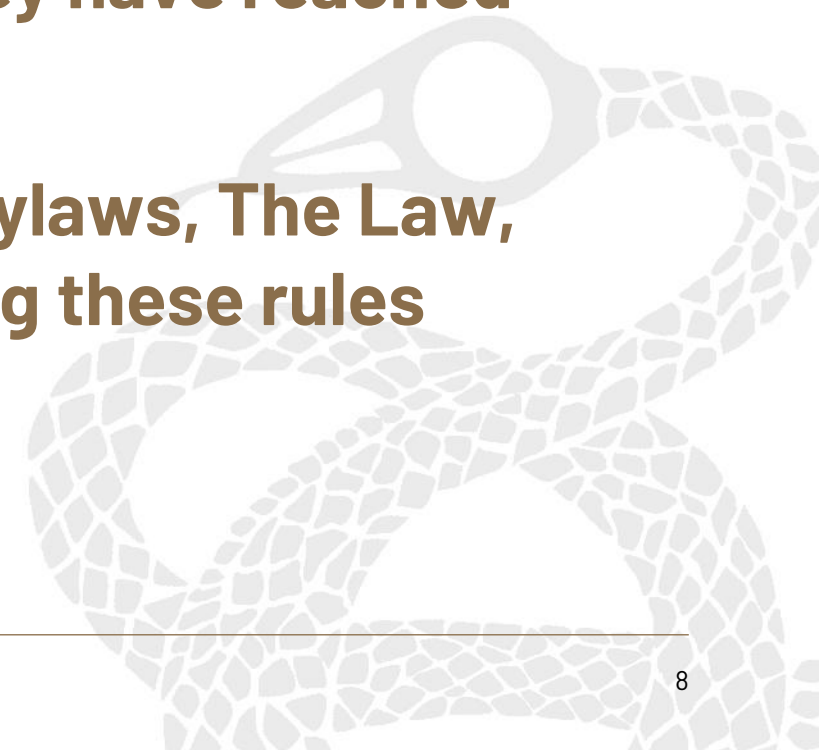
**Make yourself available**

**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 the 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**



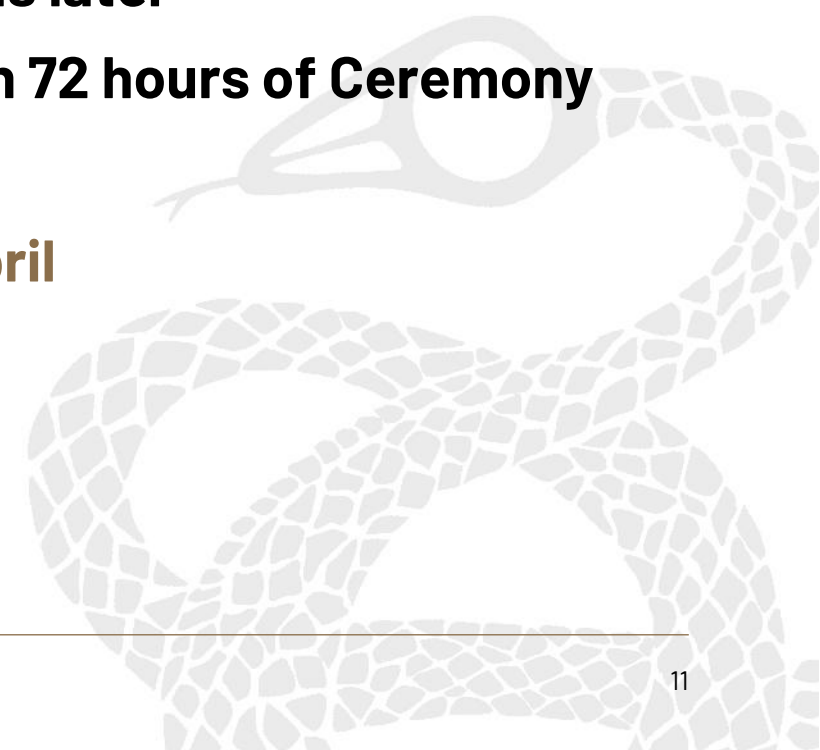
# Important Due Dates

- **College of Chapters Jan 3-6, 2026**
- **Sigma Nu Institutes Saturday, Jan. 25 & Feb 1**
- **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**

- **Feb 15th Risk Reduction Affidavit Due**
- **Founders Month of Service/Help Hand Initiative - April**
- **Pursuit of Excellence Submissions - Due April 30**
- **CommunityEDU completions - Due May 1**



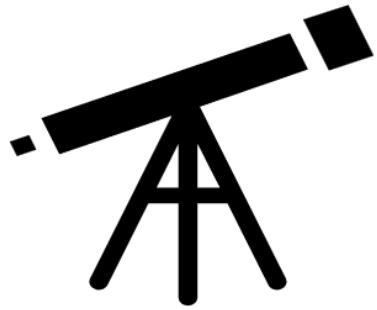
## College of Chapters (January 3-6)

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

- Highest-ever student turnout (197 - tied with 2024)
  - Driven by large group of second attendees (70)
  - 83% of chapters attended
- Program evaluation of 4.68/5.00 (matches other Roanoke events)
- [sigmanu.org/cofcresources](https://sigmanu.org/cofcresources)

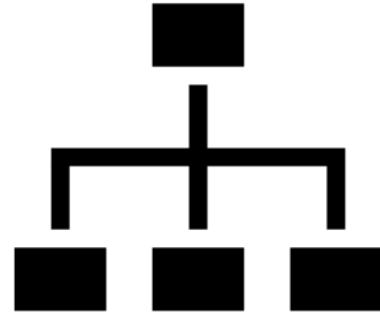


# College of Chapters Action Plan



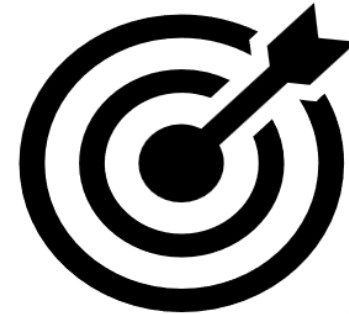
## Vision (The Why)

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/cofcreources](http://sigmanu.org/cofcreources)

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# Alumni Engagement Series Webinar:

Supporting the  
Commander's College of  
Chapters Action Plan and  
Chapter Goal Setting  
**Wednesday, January 29**



 Sigma Nu Fraternity  
EXCELLING  
WITH HONOR

FREE WEBINAR

**SUPPORTING THE COMMANDER'S  
COLLEGE OF CHAPTERS ACTION  
PLAN AND CHAPTER GOAL SETTING**

 Wednesday, January 29, 2025  
5:00 - 6:00 PM ET/2:00 - 3:00 PM PT

**REGISTER TODAY**  
[SIGMANU.ORG/WEBINARS](https://sigmanu.org/webinars)

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# Alumni Engagement Series Webinars

## Future Webinars:

- **Today's College Student (Gen Z) and Best Practices for working them**
- **Best Practices of working with your FSL Office and local Greek Advisor**
- **The Affirmation of Knighthood/Alumni Renewal Ceremony**
- **Supporting the Chapter during the Pursuit of Excellence Program Submission Process**
- **Mentor Program Update**

**([Sigmanu.org/webinars](https://sigmanu.org/webinars))**

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# Sigma Nu Institute

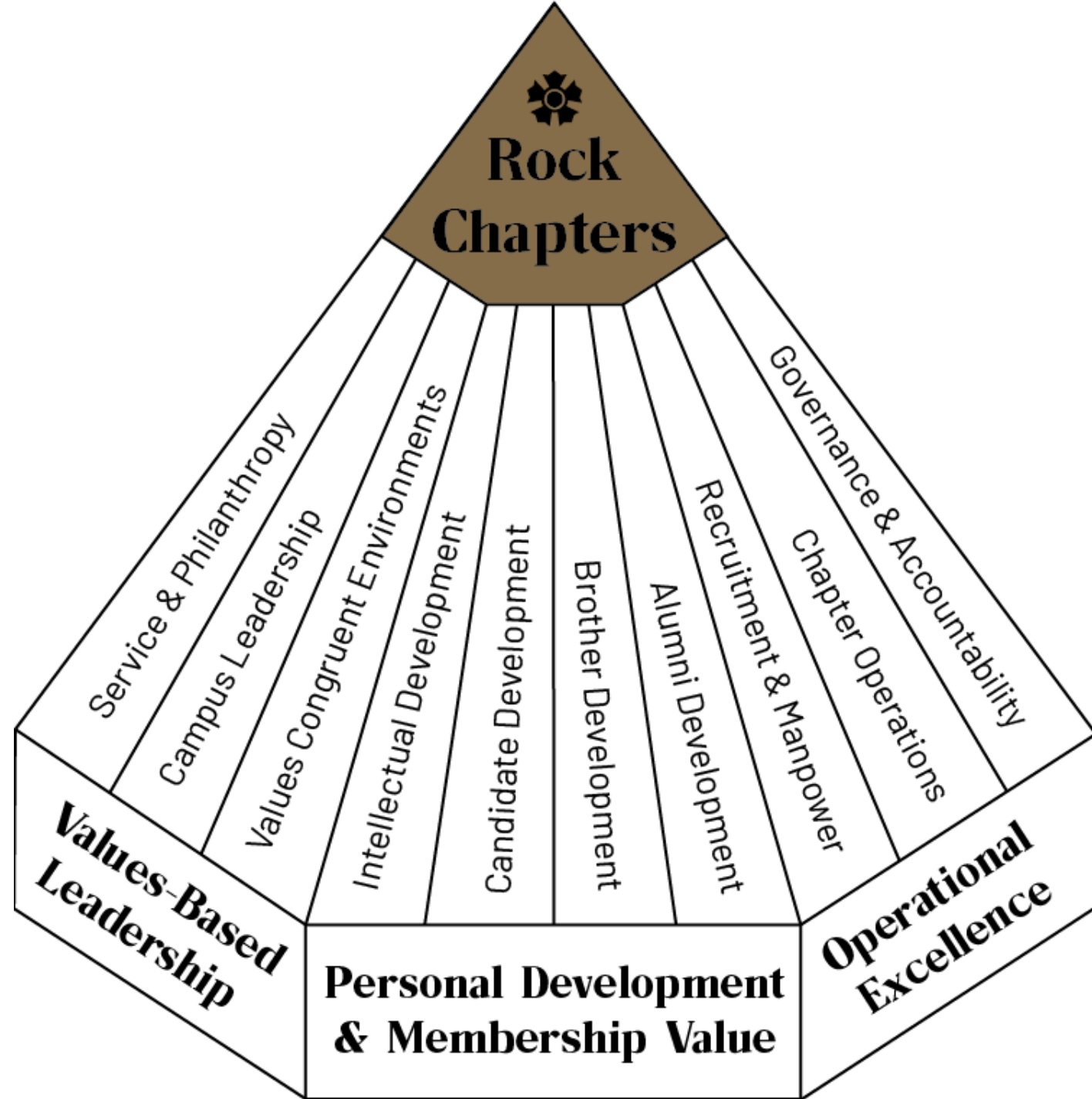
- January 25 **1:00-5:00 p.m. Pacific (4:00-8:00 p.m. Eastern)**,  
February 1 **1:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern**
- 4-hour afternoon program; 1-5 p.m. local time
- Participants can attend any program
  - Allows for more individual attendees and officer positions than in-person
  - Expanded tracks – time and # of officers
  - Solves scheduling and geographic limitations
- Info & registration at [www.sigmanu.org/institute](http://www.sigmanu.org/institute)



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# Spring '25 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**

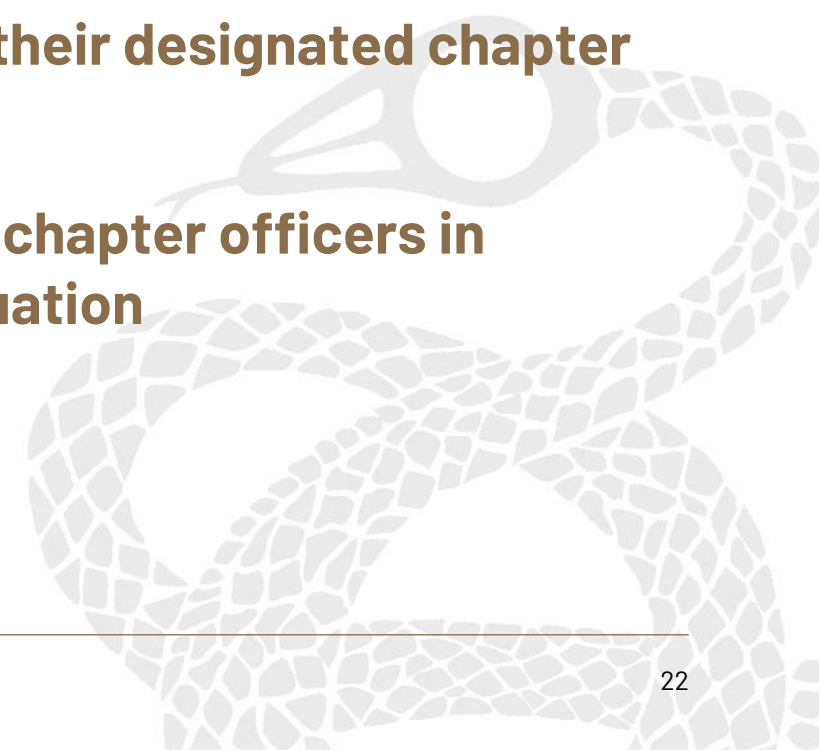
# Primary Expectations

**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**



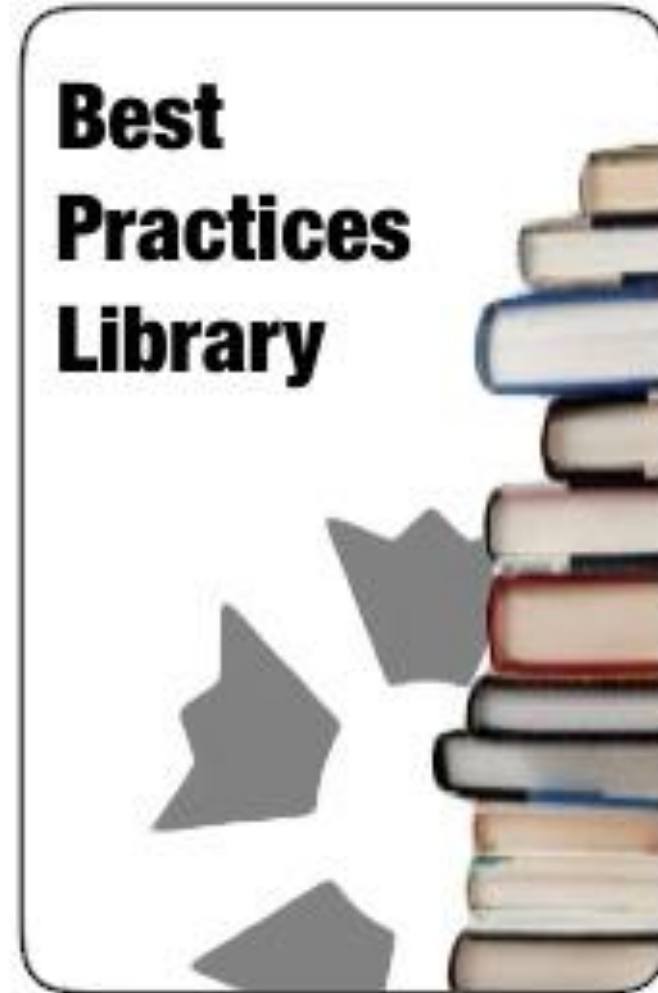
# Practices of Successful Alumni Advisory Boards

- **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

# 71<sup>st</sup> Grand Chapter

July 23-27, 2025  
Grand Hyatt  
San Antonio,  
Texas





# Questions?



# Thank You!

**Todd Denson**  
**Director of Alumni Advisory Programs**  
**540-600-3019**  
[todd.denson@sigmanu.org](mailto:todd.denson@sigmanu.org)

**Resource Links:**

[Alumni Advisory Board Overview](#)

[Alumni Best Practices Library](#)

[Division Commanders](#)

[Chapter Consultation and Support](#)

