

# Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Life

## Strategic Initiatives for Future Growth

---

Prepared by the leaders of the 2024 Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils and the 2024 Chapter Presidents

**Mission:** The fraternity and sorority community at Valparaiso University, led by the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils, will provide members an experience that is rooted in academic achievement, brotherhood and sisterhood, community, continued growth, leadership, service, and shared purpose.

- **Welcoming and Inclusive Environment:** Inclusivity promotes open-mindedness because it allows leadership from all backgrounds to be a part of the conversation. The Valparaiso University fraternity and sorority experience will be welcoming to all individuals who express interest in membership.
- **Community:** Actively develop a community that strives to learn about the other chapters on camps, makes an effort to involve themselves with other chapters, commit to improve community relations, and to promote and support the fraternity and sorority life experience.
- **Service:** Fraternity and Sorority members will use our presence on campus to benefit others through multiple avenues of service. This service will be used to build a relationship not only on campus, but also with the greater Valparaiso community.
- **Leadership:** Leadership is integral to the personal and professional development of our community and individual members. Fraternity men and sorority women will strive to develop and foster life-long leadership skills. Leadership in the fraternity and sorority community will focus on emerging leaders, motivation, change management, and continuous success.
- **Academic Achievement:** Fraternity men and sorority women will strive for high academic achievement in our pursuit of excellence and in alignment with the expectations of the Valparaiso University mission statement. We will hold ourselves to a higher standard through recognition of hard work at both the individual and chapter level.
- **Public Representation:** Members of fraternities and sororities will be viewed as campus leaders who give back, perform well academically, and contribute to the positive student environment at Valparaiso University.
- **Respect:** Mutual respect helps advance the mission of all fraternities and sororities and allows our community to flourish. Living this value on a daily basis allows us to create strong, positive, and meaningful relationships with the entire Valparaiso University community.

# Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Life Goals for 2024

---

## 1. Welcoming and Inclusive Environment:

- a. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will work to identify opportunities to provide educational materials to community members to discuss current events impacting diversity, equity, and inclusion work through programs such as a summer book club, movie review, podcasts, etc.
- b. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will work with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chairs through hosting regular roundtable meetings. All chapters will have an opportunity to send a representative to these meetings.
- c. Chapter leaders will encourage chapter-wide participating in We Matter Week programming.

## 2. Community:

- a. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will plan and develop new member unity events throughout the year to foster connections among the newest members in the community.
- b. Chapter leaders will work to develop more opportunities for all chapters to participate in each chapter's philanthropy events. Chapter leaders will examine removing barriers from chapters and individuals from participating in community-wide events.
- c. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will develop a Wear It Wednesday social media series. Chapter leaders will work with their chapters to promote active participation in the series.

## 3. Academic Achievement:

- a. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will explore the establishment of community-wide study groups.
- b. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will develop academic programming that promotes and educates the importance of academic achievement to potential new members.
- c. Chapter leaders will identify ways to recognize a wide variety of academic achievement within their chapters.

## 4. Service:

- a. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will identify opportunities to educate the fraternity and sorority community on the role of service within the community. This will include the importance of community service and philanthropic opportunities.
- b. Chapter leaders will encourage chapters to host service events as unity activities across the campus community (hosted with other chapters and student organizations).

## 5. Purpose:

- a. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will develop a campaign focused on the "why" you are in the fraternity and sorority community to be shared.
- b. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils will develop a series of training for the community around recruitment skills.

# Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council Goals for 2024

---

1. Develop initiatives that promote a strong sense of community among all sororities on campus. This includes initiatives with new members, public relations, and recruitment.
2. Create a marketing campaign that tells the story of why people join the sorority community.
3. Develop intentional initiatives focused on increasing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion knowledge and education.

# Valparaiso University Panhellenic Officers Goals for 2024

---

## **Panhellenic President:** McKenna Kalan

- Develop an inclusive and intentional Women's Empowerment Week that involves all members of the community.
- Create a successful Junior Panhellenic that is a leadership opportunity for emerging leaders in the Panhellenic community.
- Work alongside the IFC President to create successful tools and strategies for a successful joint exec team.

## **Vice President of Standards and Conduct:** Linnea Goymerac

- Ensure that chapters' risk management chairs understand S&E and community policies.
- Educate chapters on the policies and procedures, but also the 'why' behind them to highlight their importance.
- Coordinate an engaging sexual assault prevention month program for the larger Valpo community that involves other campus partners such as peer educators.

## **Vice President of Operations:** Amanda Wittersheim

- Increase awareness and applicants for the FSL scholarship.
- Creating new initiatives community wide in relation to academics.
- Plan a program for Month of the Scholar.

## **Vice President of Recruitment:** Savanah Vela

- Build relationships early with chapter recruitment chairs by setting up individual meetings outside of regularly scheduled roundtables to develop strong relationships.
- Rebrand the image of sorority life and panhellenic through community trainings that are genuine.
- Send out more intentional and specific recruitment feedback forms to not only new members, but students who did not join a sorority.

## **Vice President of Community Development:** Payton Wolfenbarger

- Develop and implement new member unity events that allow for the newest members in the community to develop intentional cross-chapter relationships.
- Continue to develop community-wide member education programs that allow individual members to meet their education requirements.

**Vice President of Public Relations:** Vacant

- 

**Head Recruitment Counselor:** Olivia Johnson

- Create a meaningful training program that teaches the Recruitment Counselors how to tell the ‘why’ to potential new members in a genuine, convincing, and intentional way.
- Break the stigma behind disaffiliation and teach the community the reason we do it and why it is important.

## **Valparaiso University Interfraternity Council Goals for 2024**

---

1. Identify and develop a recruitment training program specific for the fraternity community at Valparaiso University.
2. Develop a stronger sense of community among all fraternity chapters by increasing the amount of inter-fraternity hosted events.
3. Demonstrate to chapters that the goal of recruitments should be focused on growing community membership, in addition to individual chapter size.

## **Valparaiso University Interfraternity Board Goals for 2024**

---

### **Interfraternity Council President:** Noah Houseworth

- Head the community in a direction that increases overall happiness and encourage forward thinking from all fraternities.
- Be transparent with the other IFC officers and fraternity members and not hold back on any ideas that could benefit the community.
- Find a creative way for men in the community to be involved and support Women's Empowerment Week hosted by the Panhellenic Council.

### **Vice President of Standards and Conduct:** Matt Van Valin

- Have a full list of Judicial Board representatives trained by April 2024.
- Hold chapters accountable in all areas of their operations and reviewing policies/procedures often with community members.

### **Vice President of Operations:** Nick Wolf

- Double the number of freshman scholarship applicants by increasing the promotion and marketing of the process.
- Plan and execute an IFC and Panhellenic sponsored academic event, other than study tables.

### **Vice President of Recruitment:** Dominic Hoffman

- Attune community recruitment events to what potential new members would find intriguing and want to attend.
- Work to promote fraternity more on social media in a way that tells our story better.

### **Vice President of Community Development:** Corey McClure

- Create more of a community presence for all fraternity and sorority members by bringing back and promoting 'Wear it Wednesday'.
- Plan and host a successful welcome week that is new and creative that increases attendance from community members and potential new members.
- Host at least one new member unity event for the fraternity and sorority community.

**Vice President of Public Relations:** Parker Kelson

- Feature every chapter individually more often on Instagram in a way that is eye catching and shows off who they are and stand for.
- Collect more content and photos from all fraternities to build a collection that makes posts/spotlights more genuine.

# Fraternity and Sorority Chapter Goals for 2024

---

The following are the stated goals for 2024 per the Chapter President at the Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Retreat in January 2024

## **Alpha Gamma Delta**

- Fill the sorority house to at least 22.
- Attain a pillar of excellence award at 2024 FSL Awards.
- Utilize all advisors that we have and create more intentional meetings.

## **Chi Omega**

- Encourage all active members to find their “why” through intentional chapter discussions.
- Help organize unity events with more chapters that we typically have not worked with in the past.
- Get a specific number of members to attend each chapter’s major philanthropy event.

## **Gamma Phi Beta**

- Have more intentional 1on1 conversations with not only members of my own chapters, but others in the community to further those connections.
- Build a more positive culture around living in the house.
- Empower members of the chapter to contribute to chapter decisions and allow them to have more of a voice.

## **Kappa Alpha Psi**

- Increase awareness of our chapter on campus through various social media and marketing efforts.
- Host more social events in order to live up to being a social organization on campus.
- Have more of a presence at other chapter events and programming.

## **Kappa Delta**

- Host at least one event per semester with another chapter that covers a category of Standards and Expectations.
- Build a collective vision for the chapter to remind members of our purpose as women of Kappa Delta.
- Motivate council officers to lead and plan based on doing what they love and not because they have to do it.

## **Kappa Kappa Gamma**

- Increase attendance at both chapter and community events.
- Help every member be able to articulate their “why” behind their membership.
- Create stronger bonds and connections between classes.

## **Lambda Chi Alpha**

- Develop an intentional plan on increasing our campus presence at events.
- Utilize official training and resources from the Office of Administration.
- Host at least three events with other chapters by the end of the Spring 2024 semester.

### **Phi Delta Theta**

- Create and implement a new philanthropy event (Iron 5k) that involves more members outside of the university community.
- Start the tradition of hosting an off-campus brotherhood retreat.
- Increase our social presence in the community and host our first formal.

### **Phi Kappa Psi**

- Work to redefine the chapter culture and divide that currently exists between classes.
- Hold more social events with other organizations.
- Improve relationship with our housing corporation.

### **Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia**

- Gain more connection and involvement within the chapter from faculty.
- Be more present at other chapters major philanthropy events by sending at least two people to attend.
- Build up leadership skills and development activities for chapter members.

### **Phi Sigma Kappa**

- Implement a new philanthropy event to help increase awareness and support of our philanthropy.
- Create efficient and effective officer transitions.
- Increase presence on campus through athletics and supporting other philanthropy events.

### **Pi Beta Phi**

- 

### **Pi Kappa Alpha**

- Develop and implement chapter-wide recruitment training.
- Provide training to all the chapter officers utilizing Pi Kappa Alpha national resources.
- Build stronger connection with alumni members.

### **Sigma Chi**

- Create an organized and functional structure to help accomplish tasks and plan chapter events.
- Increase participation not only at internal events, but community wide events.

### **Sigma Lambda Gamma**

- Expand our presence on campus and be more involved in the community.
- Connect with nearby chapters through social media and in-person events.
- Host a new member presentation in the Spring 2024 semester.

### **Sigma Phi Epsilon**

- Meet with executive board members bi-weekly.
- Host events with other chapters on a more regular basis.

### **Sigma Pi**

- Do more unity events with other chapters across both councils.
- Bring back traditions important to the chapter that have been lost.



# Fraternity and Sorority Community Long Term Goals

---

These long term goals for the growth and development of the Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Community were established in 2014 and are revised annually at the Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Retreat

Progress toward these long-range goals is noted in **red** below.

1. The fraternity and sorority membership will make up 35% of the total undergraduate enrollment by 2025
  - a. 2015: 24%
  - b. 2016: 25%
  - c. 2017: 27%
  - d. 2018: 27%
  - e. 2019 - 2023: 29%
  - f. 2024: TBD
2. Fraternity and sorority chapters will be within 10% of their idea chapter size.
  - a. 2023:
3. Implementation of the Fraternity and Sorority Housing Project
  - a. 2016 - Sorority Housing Project completed
  - b. 2021 - Phi Kappa Psi Housing Project completed
  - c. 2022 – Sigma Pi 803 Brown St Renovation
  - d. TBD - Sigma Phi Epsilon Housing Project
  - e. TBD - Sigma Chi Housing Project
  - f. TBD – Pi Kappa Alpha Housing Project
4. Establish a historically African-American sorority chapter and a historically Hispanic/Latino fraternity by 2025
  - a. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. – in process for 2023
5. All fraternity and sorority chapters will have created an officer position responsible for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives by 2024.
  - a. 2023 – 10 of 17 chapters
6. The community will initiate one alumni/ae member each academic year beginning in 2014.
  - a. 2014 - John Ruff, English Department, Sigma Phi Epsilon
  - b. 2015 - Ryan Bye, Residence Life, Sigma Phi Epsilon
  - c. 2016 - Multiple honorary initiates, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
  - d. 2017 - Aaron Hollis, Residence Life, Phi Delta Theta, Mark LaBarbara, Athletics, Pi Kappa Alpha
  - e. 2018 – Nick Rosasco, Computer Science, Lambda Chi Alpha and Mark Robison, Library, Sigma Phi Epsilon
  - f. 2019 - Richard Severe, English Department, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
  - g. 2020 - President Mark Heckler, honorary initiate of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
  - h. 2021 - Nancy Janke, Admissions, Gamma Phi Beta
  - i. 2022 - Steven Janowiak, Student Life, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Ryan Cole, Student Life, Phi Delta Theta
  - j. 2023 – Luke Venstrom, Engineering, Sigma Phi Epsilon