



Kappa Omicron Nu Resolution

Social Responsibility

Background

As a representative of Kappa Omicron Nu, Executive Director Dorothy I. Mitsifer attended **The Global Summit on Social Responsibility** sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives, April 20-May 2, 2008. As an outcome of that experience Kappa Omicron Nu initiated a social responsibility project as an option for chapter programming in 2008. The Global Summit was an acknowledgement that “associations play a special role in our world and have the power to transform society for the better” (ASAE, 2008, p. 7). Because society is transformed most productively from the bottom up in the spheres of environmental, social, and economic change, Kappa Omicron Nu chapters have an opportunity to make an impact on campus and in the larger community.

Relationship to Kappa Omicron Nu Mission

The Kappa Omicron Nu mission, *empowered leaders*, reflects the intention of the organization. The mission or outcome of the program and activities of the organization is an ambitious one; members are challenged to make this mission a life-long quest. The adjective, empowered, in this connection is defined as "focusing . . . energy in . . . [one's] Circle of Influence. . . . it's acting with integrity to create the environment in which we and others can develop character and competence and synergy (Covey, Merrill, & Merrill, 1994, p. 238). Block (1987) talked about empowerment as "enacting the vision."

Position Statement

“Leadership is about going somewhere—personally and in concert with others in an organization. Although leadership, especially position (elected or appointed) leadership, is often discussed in terms of leader qualities and skills, the matter of leadership as a responsibility of each professional receives little attention (Wheatley, 2005). The campus and larger community can benefit from the leadership of chapter members in addressing issues related to social responsibility in the areas of peace and security, social justice, environment, prosperity, innovation/technology, health, and education.

Program objectives include the following:



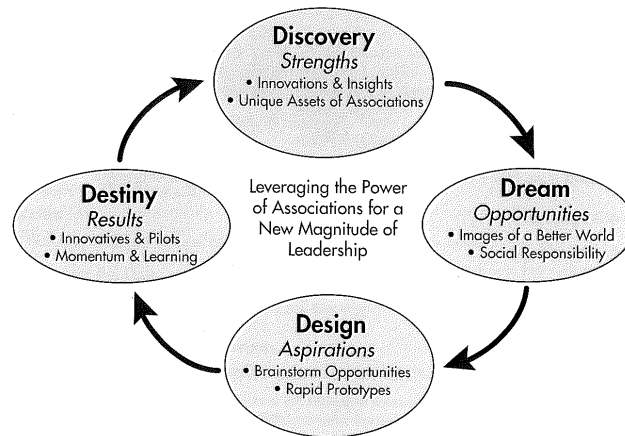
1. Promote, encourage, and strengthen leadership development at all levels of the campus community in regard to social responsibility.
2. Engage in a dialogue among student groups regarding social responsibility.
3. Commit to a leadership role in increasing campus and community awareness of a local issue or concern.
4. Serve as role models of leadership.

Proposed Process

One procedure for developing an action plan is Appreciative Inquiry (AI). The stages of discovery, dream, design, and destiny utilize a small-group process to leverage the power of the chapter to provide leadership in social responsibility. The following elements are part of AI (ASAE, 2008, p. 6):

- The **whole system** participates – a cross-section of as many internal and external stakeholders as possible should be included.
- **Task-focused**, AI is not simply an education event or a conference. It builds a vision and plan of action that creates a new magnitude of socially responsible leadership.
- From a **historical and global** perspective, participants think globally before acting locally.

- Participants **self-manage** their work and use **inquiry**, not problem solving, as the main tool.
- **Common ground**, rather than conflict management, is the frame of reference.
- **Appreciate Inquiry** means to appreciate valued ends and is the process to understand those things worth valuing. To inquire means to study, to ask questions, to search. **AI** is therefore a collaborative search to identify and understand the system's strengths and greatest opportunities as well as participant's aspirations.
- **Commitment to action** ensures that it is easier to make rapid designs (prototypes and pilots) and deliver on promises to act.



Proposed Action

Therefore, be it resolved that KON chapters

- Collaborate with unit administrators and faculty and/or with other honor societies or student groups on campus to determine ways to promote social responsibility during 2009 - 2012;
- Develop an action plan to promote social responsibility;
- Institute activities to promote social responsibility, evaluate them, and revise to enhance their effectiveness; and
- Publicize accomplishments and recognize participants.

Financial Impact

Because social responsibility programming is no different than other programming, chapter funds budgeted for programming can provide needed funds.

Time Frame

Chapters are encouraged to develop a plan for three academic years and to implement the plan.

References

- ASAE. (2008). *The global summit on social responsibility: Leveraging the power of associations for a new magnitude of leadership*. Washington, DC.
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- Covey, S. R., Merrill, A. R., & Merrill, R. R. (1994). *First things first*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- Wheatley, M. J. (2005). *Finding our way*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler.