

New Year, New You: A Conversation Starter

2014 IS HERE, WHAT IMPACT WILL YOU MAKE?

As we start a new year and begin another semester/quarter, it is important to take some time to stop and reflect about what lies ahead for you, your position and the chapter. The enclosed poster is designed to have chapter members, many starting new leadership positions, think of all the possibilities ahead of them.

Some new officers will be following a person who excelled as a leader and might be feeling overwhelmed by high expectations. On the flip side, some may be inheriting a position that was neglected, and the sense of urgency to correct past mistakes all at once will give pause and create unrealistic expectations.

The poster can be used as a positive reminder to think of the next few weeks as chance to plan for the future success of the chapter.

At the first Executive Committee, Program Council and/or chapter meeting, take time to have conversations using the following questions and tips as a guide:

RESET BUTTON?

- What does the word “reset” mean to your position?
- In what areas can we capitalize on the ability to “reset” at the start of the year?

NEW TERM?

- What are the major chapter events on the calendar for this semester?
- What role do I play in making sure they are successful?

NEW CHOICES?

- What can I do right now that will have the most impact for me and my position?
- What do I need to unlearn to be more successful?

NEW DECISIONS?

- How can we enhance our connectedness and support of other chapter members?

NEW CHALLENGES?

- We often ask our members and the chapter to change. In what ways do we need to change?
- What is the one thing, if completed soon, that will make my job less challenging?

NEW OPPORTUNITIES?

- What projects am I most excited about growing to be successful?
- What is the one thing I want to say I accomplished this time next year?
- What can I do to make the year ahead a positive experience for all?

Tips for Starting 2014 the Right Way...

- ✓ Make sure you have read all ZTA and university resources pertaining to your position. Each Executive Committee member has a section in the Know Your Team section of *Learn, Know, Lead! ZTA's Guide for the President* found on the Sisters Only site.
- ✓ Meet with the individual you succeeded and discuss the Outgoing Officer Worksheet, Incoming Officer Worksheet and the Old/New Officer Training Checklist section in *Learn, Know, Lead!* to learn what she wished she would have known about the position when she started.
- ✓ Write down your goals and objectives for the year and share with the leadership team. Officer goal setting resources can be found in the *Guide's* Lead your Team section.
- ✓ Have deadlines and important dates written down and review them often.
- ✓ Communicate regularly with the alumna advisor assigned to work with you.
- ✓ Think of the year ahead as a marathon, not a sprint.

It's not how you begin your term that will define success, it is how you finish!

