

LAMBDA THETA ALPHA

Accreditation Report

2014-2015

Intellectual Development

- Lambda Theta Alpha was ranked second out of two Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapters in the fall 2014 semester with a GPA of 3.04667, a decrease of .49619 from the spring 2014 semester. The 3.04667 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Lambda Theta Alpha was ranked second out of three Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapters in the spring 2015 semester with a GPA of 3.16909, an increase of .12242 from the fall 2014 semester. The 3.16909 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Lambda Theta Alpha's spring 2015 new member class GPA was 2.924 ranking second out of two Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapter.
- Lambda Theta Alpha had 16.7% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2014 semester and 36.4% on the Dean's List in the spring 2015 semester.
- The chapter continues to use their academic plan, including the academic contract which requires individual sisters to commit to pursuing academic excellence.
- The chapter requires a 2.6 minimum semester grade point average to be an active sister. All sisters met the requirement this year.
- The chapter hosted study hours, created a master calendar of academic assignments, and worked with the Center for Academic Success to participate in several beneficial workshops for their interests as part of the Study with the Lambda Ladies program. The Committee commends the chapter on infusing intellectual development into the intake process.
- The chapter was very passionate about the issue of colorism and sought to integrate it into a variety of their programs. "Undocumented and Unheard" was a discussion facilitated by the sisters to address the marginalization of undocumented immigrant women in society. The chapter also participated in the Women's Center Gender in a Global Context series by hosting a lunchtime discussion about race and skin color.
- The chapter hosted "The Universal Woman Essay Contest" which targets female youth in Bethlehem. Entrants are encouraged to tell their story or share stories about inspiring women. The winner receives a \$300 scholarship.
- The chapter brought "The Black Latina" play to campus which gives voice to the intersectionality of race, socioeconomic status, ethnicity and personal experiences. The play was open to the community and the chapter collaborated with Pi Beta Phi. It was well attended and a wonderful opportunity for engaging discussion.
- The Committee recognizes that the chapter actively reflects both individually and as a group to promote creative curiosity and considers this a best practice.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can the chapter integrate and reflect on the bLUeprint foundation of professional growth and success?**

In the area of **Intellectual Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Theta Alpha to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Leadership Development

- The chapter holds a retreat each semester. During these retreats, the members calendar plan, address any organization problems, create goals and revisit the chapter values.
- The chapter sent one sister to Las Vegas in July 2014 to attend the National Convention.
- The chapter is active within the Multicultural Greek Council, having one sister serve as a Tri-President for the 2014-15 academic year. Two sisters will be on the executive board for 2015-16 serving as the Vice President of Scholarship and Social Media Chair.
- The chapter had one sister attend the Northeast Greek Leadership Association in Hartford, CT in February 2015.
- Lambda Theta Alpha sister, Alejandra Silguero, won the Multicultural Greek Council Emerging Leader Award.
- The chapter has been active across campus as well as among the Greek community, creating solid relationships across councils. Two sisters served as the Multicultural Greek Council representatives at the Panhellenic Council meetings as well as the Lambda Theta Alpha representatives to the Council of Cultural Organizations.
- The chapter held Orientation during spring 2015 and initiated five women. The chapter is excited for the influx of new ideas and enthusiasm and looks forward to engaging the new sisters. The Committee commends the new members' ability to articulate how bLUeprint and the organizational values of unity, love and respect will shape their experience.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Lambda Theta Alpha continue to improve the plan of one semester focusing on recruitment/sisterhood and one semester focusing on programming?**

In the area of **Leadership Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Theta Alpha to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Community Development

- Lambda Theta Alpha hosted "The Bandana Project" in support of their chapter philanthropy, sexual violence awareness, held during Women's Empowerment Week. The event, which co-sponsored with Pi Kappa Alpha and the Panhellenic Council, educated students about female farm worker sexual assault and raised \$280.
- The chapter held an interest social in which attendees traveled to Philadelphia to see a screening of "Dear White People."
- The chapter volunteered at The Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley as part of Hispanic Latino Heritage Month, and conducted a workshop with local middle and high school girls during the Educate! Community Service Event.

- The chapter held a book drive for local prisoners as part of Lehigh's Black History Month observance.
- The chapter hosted "La Palma" which asked members of the Lehigh community to write what unity, love or respect means to them personally. Using the pieces of paper, the chapter constructed one of their symbols, a palm tree. The chapter used this event to not only engage the campus community in reflection, but also to market themselves to potential interests. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter continues the development of the Ladies of Tomorrow Mentorship program with plans to re-launch in the fall 2015 semester. The mission of the Ladies of Tomorrow Mentorship Program is to instill self-confidence and a college mindset for the female youth in South Bethlehem. The Committee commends the chapter on taking a year off from the program to focus on other areas of chapter development.
- Lambda Theta Alpha's national philanthropy is the St. Jude's Children Research Hospital. The chapter supported this in several ways by participating in the St. Jude's walk in Philadelphia, having the new members create a banner to send to patients, and hosting a Make and Take for students to decorate stockings for children.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can the chapter continue to capitalize on their other campus involvement, as well as engage other Greek organizations, without over-programming their members?**

In the area of **Community Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Theta Alpha to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Organizational Development

- Lambda Theta Alpha uses event evaluations to analyze the strength and weaknesses of their programming. The chapter uses these evaluations in deciding whether the program should be held in the future.
- The chapter utilizes a funding proposal packet that includes a cover letter, a table of contents, an overview of our chapter, event descriptions with their respective tentative budgets, and a donation form. This has been helpful in seeking funding from Lehigh departments and offices to support their programming.
- The chapter has strong relationships with their Faculty Advisor and Assistant Director which was beneficial in navigating some setbacks in the fall 2014 semester. The chapter takes advantage of both of these resources which has been beneficial for individual members and the organization.
- The chapter is part of Pennsylvania Area One (PAA1) which meets twice a semester to discuss business and network with other area chapters. Members were attendance for all PAA1 meetings.
- The chapter intentionally took a step back from programming this year and focused internally on intake and integrating bLUeprint as well as individual member wellness and sisterhood. The Committee commends the chapter on valuing self-care.
- The chapter hosted "BurgunDays," a month-long celebration of their founding, which included programming throughout the month of April such as "Being Mary Jane" and "Standing in Solidarity with Women of India."

- The chapter held four informationals during the 2014-15 academic year, two each semester which are formal recruitment events for non-affiliated women. The chapter spent a lot of time on recruitment and retention during the fall semester which was a new strategy that benefited the organization.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can the chapter continue to focus on retention and self-care, while maintaining programming and intellectual initiatives that interest the chapter?**

In the area of **Organizational Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Theta Alpha to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Lambda Theta Alpha has been rated a Gold chapter by the 2014-2015 Accreditation Committee.

Lambda Theta Alpha has had an impressive year internally and externally. The chapter members have displayed their leadership abilities across campus – inside and outside of Greek life through serving the community, especially female youth, as well as promoting diversity and inclusivity throughout a variety of programs. The Committee commends the chapter for acknowledging when to take a step back and focus on the members and their development and wellbeing. The Committee hopes to see Lambda Theta Alpha continue to balance their priorities and create positive change throughout the Lehigh community.

The Accreditation committee assigns Lambda Theta Alpha an overall rating of Gold, which is considered an exceptional level of achievement in the Accreditation process, with all the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating. Congratulations!

Chapter Development Questions

- How can the chapter integrate and reflect on the bLUeprint foundation of professional growth and success?
- How can Lambda Theta Alpha continue to improve the plan of one semester focusing on recruitment/sisterhood and one semester focusing on programming?
- How can the chapter continue to capitalize on their other campus involvement, as well as engage other Greek organizations, without over-programming their members?
- How can the chapter continue to focus on retention and self-care, while maintaining programming and intellectual initiatives that interest the chapter?

Best Practices

- The Committee recognizes that the chapter actively reflects both individually and as a group to promote creative curiosity and considers this a best practice.
- The chapter hosted “La Palma” which asked members of the Lehigh community to write what unity, love or respect means to them personally. Using the pieces of paper, the chapter constructed one of their symbols, a palm tree. The chapter used

this event to not only engage the campus community in reflection, but also to market themselves to potential interests. The Committee considers this a best practice.