

Gamma Phi Beta

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MEET THE GAMMA PHI BETA INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL: LILLIAN LAMMERS (DENVER)

November 2, 2020

Centennial, Colorado – On June 27, 2020, Gamma Phi Beta made history by hosting our 79th Convention on a virtual platform due to COVID-19. During this time, we elected a new International Council (IC) for 2020-22. Collectively, this IC has 142 years of Gamma Phi Beta volunteer service at local, regional and international levels. They are all active community members and accomplished in their fields. Professionally, these leaders demonstrate deep experience in finance, education, social services, technology, marketing and counseling. Together, they will lead our organization through the next biennium's challenges and opportunities and continue to strengthen Gamma Phi Beta.

We asked each member of IC to answer a few questions about what they hope to accomplish in this biennium, as it relates to [the 2021-24 Strategic Plan](#). Meet Rev. Dr. Lillian Hallstrand Lammers (Denver). Lillian is currently serving her first term as a Vice President on IC. To learn more about Lillian, check out her bio on [the International Council page of our website](#).



A key aspect of financial discipline is smart decisions. What will you consider before making financial choices on behalf of our Sorority?

Making wise fiscal decisions during this biennium feels imperative as we face the unprecedented circumstances of a global pandemic and we prepare for a season where we expect greater financial constraints as a result. With tighter budgets, IC must look to how our values, founding principles, organizational mission and our current membership needs inform what is most important for us to invest in over the next two years. Wise financial decisions must reflect who Gamma Phi Beta is at our core, and who we hope to be in the years to come.

What might innovative and accessible membership experiences look like?

The year 2020 has pushed every single one of us to explore new ways to engage, participate and maintain connections with the various organizations and communities in which we take part. We have already observed collegiate and alumnae chapters move annual events online and create new digital events that allow us to connect and experience sisterhood through a screen. I have spent most of the years of my adult life living in cities with either no alumnae chapter or no active collegiate chapters, limiting the ways to engage with Gamma Phi Beta. With new offerings through Sisterhood @ Home, virtual chapter meetings and online ritual formats, we are entering an era where members can find and maintain strong sisterhood ties and participate in educational opportunities, even if they lack transportation or access to a local Gamma Phi Beta chapter. While nothing can ever quite replicate in-person event experiences, I see new



12737 E. EUCLID DRIVE, CENTENNIAL, CO 80111-6445

T: 303.799.1874 | F: 303.799.1876

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possibilities for creating accessible and meaningful experiences for Gamma Phi Beta members using this new online format.

Why is the work related to belonging, inclusion, equity and diversity important for Gamma Phi Beta?

The 2020-22 IC has named working toward a diverse and inclusive membership as one of our strategic priorities for the biennium, and this priority is one of utmost importance to me as well. For the past 14 years, I have engaged in various forms of social justice advocacy work and have devoted a great deal of my academic study, professional development and use of my professional roles and spheres of influence to promote inclusion and equitable practices across lines of race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation and gender identity. I am excited for my team on IC to partner with our newly appointed Belonging and Inclusion Committee to ensure Gamma Phi Beta is a sisterhood open to women of all backgrounds and identities who share our values and seek to join and to lead.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever received that is relevant to the current landscape in Gamma Phi Beta?

When I was 21 years old and preparing to begin my year as a Gamma Phi Beta collegiate leadership consultant, a mentor took me aside and said, “When you get to these chapters, you should say very few words until you’ve been there for at least a day or two.” Similar logic to Stephen Covey’s 5th Habit in *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, which says, “Seek first to understand, then to be understood,” I have found this advice valuable in many different situations and professional settings. The year 2020 has thus far been characterized by the need for quick and emergent responses and demands for rapid change and transformation as the result of a global pandemic and powerful racial justice movement. During this year, I find this advice to intently listen and seek to understand even more salient as many of us find ourselves in new experiences and being presented with new information relative to global health and systemic racism.

How would you define a successful biennium besides accomplishing the strategic plan’s top three priorities of the strategic plan?

In her memoir *Love Warrior*, Glennon Doyle states, “We can choose to be perfect and admired or to be real and loved. We must decide.” My hope for myself and for all current IC members is that our members experience us as “real” as we seek to lead during the challenges of this biennium. In addition to leading with integrity and staying true to the Sorority’s founding principles, I want our team to be experienced as approachable, relatable, authentic and willing to both listen and have open conversations about difficult topics. This feels like one of the highest measures of success for our team.

ABOUT

Gamma Phi Beta was founded on November 11, 1874, at Syracuse University by four bold and courageous women. The Sorority’s mission is to build confident women of character who celebrate sisterhood and make a difference in the world around them. Headquartered in Centennial, Colorado, the Sorority has



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chartered 190 collegiate chapters across the United States and Canada and has more than 231,000 collegiate and alumnae members worldwide.



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