

Gamma Phi Beta

TRUE AND CONSTANT

MEET THE GAMMA PHI BETA INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL: FRAN STEVENSON (KANSAS STATE)

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 Fran Stevenson (Kansas State). Fran is currently serving her first term as a Vice President on IC. To learn more about Fran, check out her bio on [the International Council page on our website](#).



Knowing strategic financial discipline is a priority, how will you show fiscal responsibility for our organization?

Fiscal responsibility begins with a solid understanding of Gamma Phi Beta's strategic priorities and values so leadership decisions drive those principles forward. It is also critical to have a keen interest in the current financial state of the Sorority and the effectiveness of the management of income and expenses.

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

Disciplined decision-making is an output of leading with curiosity. It is important to know the history, understand the impact of the decision and lead with the future of the Sorority at the forefront.

How will you ensure the membership experience is accessible and encourages lifetime engagement?

This question defines the Sorority experience for me personally as I was provided the opportunity of membership as a first-generation college student and have benefited from my lifetime engagement experiences. Why do I continue to give back to Gamma Phi Beta? Because I want other women to have this experience as collegians and alumnae. As the world continues to change and evolve, it is important that Gamma Phi Beta continue to lead our Sorority and our fraternity sisters/brothers by thinking creatively and innovatively to stay relevant to potential new members and members.



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What new ideas do you have for accessible membership experiences?

As I mentioned earlier, opportunities for membership will continue to evolve. Therefore, it is essential that Gamma Phi Beta is open to change while inspiring the highest type of womanhood. I do not want to take ownership of the Belonging and Inclusion priorities; however, I think these ideas include excellent short- to mid-term activities that will increase accessible membership experiences. As a member-driven organization, we should place high value on diverse members' voices and celebrate that engagement.

What will you bring to the table regarding belonging, inclusion, equity and diversity?

I bring a commitment to all our members to ensure their voice is not only heard but contributes to the future of Gamma Phi Beta. My desire for lifelong learning combined with global personal and professional experiences provides a unique lens to support our entire membership.

How will you amplify Black, Brown, Indigenous and women of color voices within Gamma Phi Beta?

I will start by listening to the deliverables/recommendations of the Gamma Phi Beta Belonging and Inclusion Committee, as they bring the expertise, knowledge and collaboration to amplify the voices of women of color. Then, it's important those voices contribute to decisions that impact the future of Gamma Phi Beta.

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

Listen, lead with curiosity and don't be afraid of change.

What is a professional experience you will bring to the table when addressing the top three priorities of the strategic plan?

My experience as a leader at an information technology (IT) company includes constant change and requires innovation to maintain a future of growth. This could not be more applicable to what international Gamma Phi Beta is experiencing if we want to exist in the future. This requires thoroughness while acting with a sense of urgency, innovation and listening to the voices of all members and a respect for past success while investing in what fraternity and sorority life could look like in the future.

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 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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