

FY26 Annual Research Impact Report

Research was identified as a core strategic priority of FFE in 2022.

By 2026, FFE sought to be the leader in championing, funding, and facilitating research to advance fraternal excellence and enhance the ability of the industry to share the value and positive impact of all fraternity/sorority member experiences. More than \$700,000 was awarded this fiscal year in support

AMPLIFYING SORORITY CAMPAIGN PROJECTS PARTIALLY OR FULLY FUNDED BY FFE IN FY26:

- New Member Longitudinal Study (Dr. Meghan Grace, Plaid)
- The State of Sorority Women's Mental Health (Dr. Amanda Blakewood Pascale, University of North Florida)
- Alumnae & Donor Engagement Survey (Cygnus Applied Research)
- Parent Perceptions of the Sorority Experience (Culturati Research & Consulting)

AMPLIFYING SORORITY

KEY FINDINGS FROM SORORITY RESEARCH:

- In nearly every measure, when compared to their peers, sorority women have **more positive mental health and well-being**.
- **Parents are seeking transparency about the sorority experience.** Clear communication around costs, scholarships, and financial aid opportunities are vital.
- **Social connection is the currency of sorority.** It is the most powerful and consistent lever to maintain and improve retention.
- **Our case for engagement needs a jump start:** 47% of non-donors say they don't intend to give to their sorority foundation because other causes are higher priorities.
- Our new members see **leadership opportunities as a key reason to join**, and benefit from almost immediately upon joining.

ELEVATING FRATERNITIES CAMPAIGN PROJECTS PARTIALLY OR FULLY FUNDED BY FFE GRANTS IN FY26:

- Joining Insights Project (Prevention Strategies)
- Fraternity Growth Index (NIC Staff)
- Masculinity Study (Prevention Strategies)
- Learning Outcomes of Fraternity Membership (Piazza Center)
- Rites of Passage (Kent State University)
- Alumnae & Donor Engagement Survey (Cygnus Applied Research)
- Brotherhood Summit (NIC, American Institute for Boys and Men, Release U)
- Efficacy of New Member Education Programs (Piazza Center and Kent State University)
- Campus Conduct Guidelines and Guardrails (Dr. Meghan Grace)
- Fraternity Member Mental Health (Dr. Amanda Blakewood Pascale, University of North Florida; Dr. Patrick Biddix, University of Tennessee)

ELEVATING FRATERNITIES

One champion at a time.

KEY FINDINGS FROM FRATERNITY RESEARCH:

- Fraternity members experience **higher levels of belonging** and **lower levels of anxiety and depression** than unaffiliated peers.
- Fraternity alumni **significantly outpace their peers** — 62% compared to 34% — when it comes to career well-being.
- Fraternity alumni are 5x as likely to **give back financially to their alma mater**.
- Fraternity members show **significantly higher learning gains** than their peers in their first year of college.
- 83% of fraternity members indicate **stronger leadership confidence** as a result of their fraternity membership.