

Gamma Iota Sigma Presents Virtual 49th Annual International Conference

Gamma's Got Talent: Promoting Resilience, Access, and Exposure

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Powell, OH, October 6, 2020 – Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS), the insurance industry's premier collegiate talent pipeline, presented its **49th Annual International Conference – “Gamma's Got Talent”**, the hallmark recruiting event of the year and the leading single access point to top talent, as a completely virtual event for the first time in the organization's history. Held September 24-25, the conference was made possible by GIS **Sustaining Partners**, **Conference Sponsors**, and key grants.

Nearly 700 faculty and students from over 115 colleges and universities across North America registered to join industry professionals from 71 insurance organizations for two days of inspired programming, a virtual one-of-its-kind career fair, virtual interviews, annual awards ceremony, keynote addresses, and expert-led panels and educational sessions. For the first time ever, Gamma Iota Sigma increased the accessibility of its Annual International Conference and the insurance industry by inviting any student of any school, major, or background – regardless of GIS affiliation – to participate in the event leading to student registrations from 50 schools without exposure to GIS previously. GIS also offered discounted conference registration and an **At-Large Membership** special in conjunction with the conference to further support students affected by COVID-19's impact on the workforce, connect them with career opportunities across all functional areas of the insurance industry, and promote resilience.

GIS was proud to present an exceptional speaker line-up, with **Nancy Mellard, Executive Vice President and General Counsel with CBIZ and Vice Chair of The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers**, and **Maroun Mourad, President, Global Underwriting with Verisk** as the keynotes. Additionally, the program, which featured **17** industry speakers and executives representing **21** leading organizations, included dynamic panel discussions **Building the Brand: Breaking Stereotypes & Sharing the Story of Insurance**, **The Future of Insurance: Innovation in a Changing**, and **Great Power = Great Responsibility: Promoting Ethics and Fighting Bias in Data**.

At Gamma Iota Sigma's Annual Awards ceremony, held at the 49th Annual International Conference, **winner of the prestigious 2019-20 student, chapter, faculty, and alumni awards** were announced and celebrated for their successes during the 2019-20 academic year. Other notable events took place in conjunction with the 2020 Conference:

- For the third year, the student-led **GammaSAID** Council (Solutions for Authenticity, Inclusion, and Diversity) hosted its annual **Unique Week**, a virtual celebration of diversity, equity, and inclusion, September 20-26, 2020.
- In partnership with the **Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF)**, GIS hosted a **2020 Community Service initiative**, giving students the opportunity to participate in community service in support of pandemic response and recovery in conjunction with the conference.

- GIS hosted its annual Faculty Roundtable, assembling faculty and GIS advisors from colleges and universities throughout North America to share success stories in the COVID climate.
- GIS hosted its annual **Professional Association** Roundtable, bringing together professional associations from across the insurance industry, representing a variety of industry specialties and niches, to discuss talent engagement and share ideas.

Committed to the future of talent and the vitality of the industry, GIS leads the industry in developing and sustaining a robust, diverse talent pipeline and delivers programs that underscore a commitment to showcasing the expansive breadth of opportunity throughout insurance to students of all backgrounds. There are many ways for companies to support the rising generation and engage directly with GIS and its students year-round, from the **Sustaining Partners Program**, offering unparalleled benefits and exclusive access, participation in the January **Regional Conference Series January 21-22**, Virtual Career Fairs, the **GIS Career Center**, and **opportunities directly with chapters**. Currently underway is GIS's **Boots on the Ground Month**, a call to action to share their stories with students throughout the month of October and impact the future of talent. In addition, GIS will host its fourth annual Recruiters Roundtable on October 27, assembling recruiters from global and local companies throughout North America for a first-access look at GIS's 2020 Student Recruiting Survey results which guide best practices for recruiting future insurance industry talent.

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About Gamma Iota Sigma

Incorporated in 1965 and boasting an annual membership of over 5,000 students and 35,000 alumni from a growing network of **over 92 colleges and universities throughout North America**, Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS) is the industry's premier collegiate talent pipeline with over 50 years of experience engaging students and preparing them for careers in insurance. GIS is the only organization of its kind and is the solution to the industry's talent gap issue, pursuing a mission to promote, encourage, and sustain student interest in careers across all functional areas in insurance. GIS is committed to growing and supporting the number of highly qualified students entering the industry; the number of GIS students and active chapters has more than doubled in recent years and continues to grow. In partnership with **Sustaining Partners**, grantmakers committed to the future of talent, corporate supporters, professional associations, trade organizations, and other industry collaborators, the full spectrum of GIS programming provides its members with valuable interaction with the industry, as well as the tools to pursue and succeed in an insurance career. For more information, visit: GammalotaSigma.org.

About the GIS Annual International Conference

First held in 1973, Gamma Iota Sigma's Annual International Conference is the largest and most significant international event of its kind, providing students unparalleled insurance industry exposure and access, professional and educational development, showcasing industry resources and opportunities, and connecting top collegiate talent looking to enter the insurance industry with representatives from companies and organizations who recognize the importance of a talent pipeline and sustaining interest in industry careers. The Conference attracts the best and brightest students throughout North America pursuing careers across all industry segments and functional areas. The 49th Annual International Conference was the first in the organization's history offered in a virtual format.