Gamma Iota Sigma's First Ohio Regional Conference at The Ohio State University Promoted Industry's Talent Pipeline

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Yardley, PA, February 1, 2018 — **Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS)**, the insurance industry's premier collegiate talent pipeline, presented its first-ever Ohio Regional Conference January 26-27, 2018 at The Ohio State University. Over 80 students and faculty advisors from 10 colleges and universities in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, plus an applicant school from Texas, were joined by representatives from 14 companies at the Blackwell Inn and Conference Center for two days of intensive engagement and industry exposure, including a career fair, educational sessions, speed networking, and industry and alumni panels, in addition to leadership seminars and networking opportunities.

Keynote speakers were: Mike LaRocco, Chairman, President and CEO, State Auto Insurance Company of Ohio; Alan Hoffmann, President, Hoffmann & Associates, Past GIS Board President, and Alpha Chapter Alumnus 1986; Andy Farver, University Relations & College Recruiting Manager, Westfield Insurance; and Jessica Legnos Kearney, Executive Director, Travelers Institute. The conference was made possible through support from **GIS Sustaining Partners**, **Regional Conference Sponsors**, and in part by a grant given by The Griffith Foundation through the Risk Institute, and was presented by GIS in partnership with The Risk Institute and Insuring Ohio Futures.

GIS Chief Executive Officer Noelle Codispoti said, "GIS heeds the call of an estimated 400,000 jobs that need to be filled by 2020, which is why we provide meaningful, customized, and innovative opportunities and solutions for the insurance industry to engage with and recruit top collegiate talent. The Ohio Regional Conference was an excellent opportunity for us to adapt to the industry's needs, and we were thrilled to partner with The Risk Institute at The Ohio State University and Insuring Ohio Futures to make this event a reality and a success." GIS programming, including this conference, enables the industry to maximize its recruiting efforts by engaging with students from multiple schools in a single setting, students of all interests: risk management, actuarial science, data analytics, information technology, marketing, finance, economics, human resources, and more.

Plans are being explored for an expansion of the Regional Conference series in 2019. In the meantime, GIS continues its programmatic expansion and its efforts to meaningfully connect students to opportunities in insurance by going digital with the addition of the industry-leading virtual career fair *The Pipeline*, which will take place February 13, 2018. The career fair underscores Insurance Careers Month and is presented in partnership with the Insurance Careers Movement, Insuring Ohio Futures, IABA (International Association of Black Actuaries), MyPath, and InsNerds.com. Open and free to all students, *The Pipeline* Virtual Career Fair will bring employers together with college students pursuing a career in the insurance industry, providing access to companies seeking entry-level and internship candidates. The next **Annual International Conference** is October 4-6, 2018 in Chicago, Illinois. There are many ways for companies to engage directly with GIS and its students, from the **Sustaining Partners Program** to the **GIS Career Center** and **opportunities directly with chapters**.

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About Gamma Iota Sigma

Incorporated in 1965 and boasting an annual membership of over 4,000 students at **76 colleges and universities throughout North America**, Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS) is the industry's premier collegiate talent pipeline and has over 50 years of history of 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 insurance. GIS is committed to growing the number of highly qualified students entering the industry; to that end, the number of GIS students and active chapters has more than doubled in recent years and continues to grow. In partnership with Sustaining Partners, corporate supporters, professional organizations, and trade associations, the full spectrum of GIS programming provides its members with meaningful interaction with the industry, as well as the tools to pursue and succeed in an insurance career. For more information, visit: **GammaIotaSigma.org**.