

Gamma Iota Sigma Presented its 48th Annual International Conference with Resounding Success

CONTACT:

Sharla Floyd

Senior Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

(484) 991-4471

Sharla.Floyd@GammalotaSigma.org

Yardley, PA, October 4, 2019 – Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS), the insurance industry's premier collegiate talent pipeline, presented its **48th Annual International Conference**, the recruiting event of the year and the leading single access point to top talent. Held September 26-28 at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas, the conference was made possible by GIS **Sustaining Partners, Conference Sponsors**, and key grants.

628 faculty and students of all majors from 65 colleges and universities across North America, including 5 schools that do not yet have a GIS chapter, joined over 400 industry professionals for **three days of inspired programming**, featuring the largest career fair of its kind, hundreds of on-site interviews, keynote addresses, expert-led panels and educational sessions, Dive In and GammaSAID diversity & inclusion sessions, a chartering ceremony for new chapters, and more.

Nearly 600 interviews for internships and entry-level positions were conducted on-site by 22 GIS Sustaining Partner companies, and the **80 career fair exhibitors** complemented the expertly curated and led educational session content, ensuring students of all backgrounds received widespread exposure to a broad representation of the industry and the many growing and diverse career paths and resources available. GIS was proud to present an exceptional speaker lineup, with **Christopher Swift, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer with The Hartford**, and **Patricia Titus, Chief Privacy and Information Security Officer with Markel Corporation** as the keynotes. Another **62 passionate subject matter experts and inspiring industry professionals** led a combined total of 25 sessions over the three days, with the general sessions featuring an insightful panel, **Plan. Respond. Recover: The Power of Resilience**, moderated by Sean Kevelighan, CEO, Insurance Information Institute, and **Courageous Conversations: Bringing the Value of "YOU" to the Table**, a dynamic conversation on authenticity with Chubb's Teresa Black, Executive Vice President, Commercial Surety and Kenneth Stephens, Senior Vice President, Global Client Executive, moderated by Tina Valdez, recent alumna of GIS's Beta Xi chapter at St. Mary's University. In addition, 6 Professional Association partners presented Exhibit Hall Showcases highlighting their organizations and resources and 11 students led 4 interactive **GammaSAID** diversity and inclusion sessions, promoting meaningful reflection, discussion, and action.

Thursday kicked off with industry and faculty roundtables addressing critical issues and hot topics in the talent realm, including an analysis of GIS's **2019 Student Recruiting Survey data** in the Recruiters Roundtable, delving into the student perspective on the recruiting process and highlighting key statistics and trends, followed by an inspiring and actionable presentation by Dr. Leroy Nunery, Founder and Principal of management consulting firm PlüsUltré, on *The Journey of African-American Insurance Professionals*, charting the history and correlations of access, diversity, and performance. The roundtables were followed by the GIS Board of Trustees Meeting, where the slate of **2019-20 Trustees and Officers** was approved, welcoming Cheryl Matochik, Senior Vice President of Strategic Resources and Initiatives at the Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers (CIAB), to the helm as President and new chapters at the University of Southern California and the University of Mount Union were approved.

Continuing GIS's vibrant partnership and leading role with the **Global Dive In Festival** and complementing the continued growth of the GammaSAID Council wherein 19 chapters now report having a D&I Officer, the conference was a proud Dive In host site for the 4th consecutive year, featuring a Diversity & Employee Resource Group (ERG) Fair

and an interactive Inclusion Reception on Thursday, in addition to a robust slate of student-led sessions presented by **GammaSAID** (Solutions for Authenticity, Inclusion, and Diversity), a groundbreaking initiative providing the unique student voice and perspective in matters of D&I and fostering meaningful dialogue and action across the industry.

The Friday Night Awards Dinner capped off a day of extraordinary speakers and sessions as well as day two of the career fair, and celebrated the **winners of the prestigious 2018-19 student, chapter, and alumni awards**. **Robin Joines of Sedgwick and current President of the Spencer Educational Foundation** (Iota Chapter, Florida State University) and **Jon Perry of Allied World** (Alpha Kappa Chapter, Illinois State University) were recognized as the Alumni of the Year, and **Travelers** was recognized as the Industry Diversity and Inclusion Champion of the Year, an award bestowed by the GammaSAID Council on a GIS Sustaining Partner for their exemplary inclusive recruiting practices and industry-leading efforts and impact in the D&I space. The evening also provided an exciting opportunity for attendees to witness the chartering ceremony for new chapters: **Gamma Nu at Samford University** and **Gamma Xi at Texas Christian University**. Faculty, students, and supporters from both schools were in attendance.

Saturday marked the final day of the conference and featured professional development and leadership training, including an Etiquette Luncheon, Mastering the Business of Golf, and Insurance Jeopardy, as well as **Insurance Nerds Day** programming. In support of early childhood literacy and in partnership with the **Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF)**, Sesame Workshop, GIS also held an especially engaging service project for children and families in the local Dallas community. The conference culminated in a lively closing Casino Night reception Saturday evening.

Committed to the future of talent and the vitality of the industry, GIS leads the growth and diversification of a robust talent pipeline and delivers innovative 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 acclaimed **Sustaining Partners Program**, offering unparalleled benefits and exclusive access, to **conference sponsorship**, participation in the January **Regional Conference Series**, Virtual Career Fairs, the **GIS Career Center**, and **opportunities directly with chapters**. Currently underway is GIS's **Boots on the Ground Month**, a cornerstone of the One Campus at A Time initiative and a powerful call to action for industry professionals to get onto campuses throughout the month of October, share their stories with students, and impact the future of talent. In addition, **GIS's 2019 Student Recruiting Survey will revisited in an October 10 webinar** open to all to further explore survey data and its implications on the recruiting process.

The 2020 Gamma Iota Sigma Annual International Conference will be held in Dallas, Texas at the Hilton Anatole.

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About Gamma Iota Sigma

Incorporated in 1965 and boasting an annual membership of over 5,000 students and 25,000 alumni from a growing network of **over 85 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; to that end, not only has its core programming meaningfully expanded and diversified to include such initiatives as **GammaSAID**, **One Campus at A Time**, and the **2019 ITC Student Program** in collaboration with InsureTech Connect, 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 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.