

Board Meeting
September 6, 2007

APPROVE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE ALPHA CHAPTER OF DELTA
SIGMA OMICRON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-
CHAMPAIGN

The Board of Trustees at the University of Illinois sincerely appreciates and recognizes the unselfish, dedicated commitment, leadership, and volunteerism of Delta Sigma Omicron (DSO). DSO has a long, proud, and distinguished history. It was founded in 1948 by Dr. Timothy J. Nugent in concert with a courageous group of students with disabilities, most of whom were in wheelchairs and most veterans of World War II. Dr. Nugent was awarded the Chancellor's Medallion this year for his pioneering work on behalf of people with disabilities, both on and off campus, and DSO continues that tradition. DSO was incorporated in 1949, long before individuals with disabilities received any public or media attention and before there were any meaningful State or federal laws. Through its outreach, DSO has played a significant role in bringing about some of the legislation and benefits that now exist.

DSO membership is open to all persons enrolled in the University of Illinois, alumni, and field members with an interest in ensuring that qualified individuals with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the curricular, co-curricular, and vocational opportunities available at the University of

Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This campus serves as the Alpha Chapter for DSO, acting as the governing body for other chapters and as a guide for schools hoping to start their own chapter. DSO's motto is "to exercise our abilities to a maximum so as to minimize our disabilities, that we may live most and serve best."

Each year, DSO organizes a holiday party for children with disabilities and their families. This holiday party has grown in size and now includes more than 200 children and sibling participants. The gathering is an opportunity for children with disabilities to interact with one another and to meet students from the University who act as mentors.

DSO also coordinates a mentoring program that matches college students with disabilities to high school students with disabilities in the local area. DSO provides additional outreach by visiting schools within the state, holding exhibitions and panel discussions on issues related to disabilities.

Since its founding, DSO has contributed significant funding to charities aiding persons with disabilities. Finally, its members have conducted and participated in research furthering rehabilitation.

The Board of Trustees hereby recognizes and commends the Alpha Chapter of the University of Illinois Delta Sigma Omicron for its outstanding example of student volunteerism and awareness, which contributes to the fabric of student life on the Urbana campus, the community, and to the larger society.

The Board of Trustees directs that this resolution be incorporated into the minutes of today's meeting to become a part of the official public record, and that a

suitable copy be given to the University of Illinois Delta Sigma Omicron as a permanent reminder of the esteem in which it is held.