

Dear NIC Leadership,

The purpose of this letter is to transmit to you the report and recommendations from your Commission on Alcohol that has been diligently meeting for the last two years. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the Commission members and the NIC Staff that have supported the Commission.

The major findings focus on an examination of the research and experience in both fraternities and sororities who have addressed environmental strategic interventions and policy changes related to alcohol use. The recommendations are designed to ensure an increase in health and safety for all individual members of fraternal organizations, continued growth and viability of fraternities and their important role on our campus.

While all the recommendations of the Commission are important there is one that has the potential for the greatest positive impact on men's fraternities and their members. Recommendations number 1 through 5 continue NIC's commitment to education and positive intervention in the arena of alcohol abuse. But recommendation number 6 to "adopt alcohol free housing for all fraternities" is a game changer.

Recommendation number 6 represents a cultural change for most NIC fraternity members chapter houses on college and university campuses today. More than half of the Commission's work and its report was dedicated to the study of this important recommendation. While the commission understands that the Alcohol-Free Housing recommendation will have the greatest positive impact on the NIC members it also understands its implementation will be the most challenging. Therefore, I want to outline the three primary reasons that this challenge should not only be excepted but vigorously embraced.

First, all NIC Members already are committed to enforcing the 21 drinking age law and to not permit underage drinking.

Second, approximately 90% of Fraternity members who live in our chapter houses are under the age of 21.

Third, the research clearly shows that reducing alcohol availability will improve academic performance and provide a safer environment for our fraternity members.

While implementing a policy to create alcohol free fraternity chapter houses may be challenging, it's important to note that only about half of the NIC Members chapters will be impacted by Recommendation 6 because they either do not have a house or their house is already alcohol-free. There is also strong evidence and informed models that provide tools to examine and plan for community change based on readiness. The Commission also found how important an active partnership with our host institutions will be to the implementation of all its Recommendations.

In closing let me clearly state on behalf of the Commission that we know that this Report and its associated recommendations will now be reviewed by NIC Leadership which will make final decisions on the recommendations and their implementation. The Commission also wants to thank the NIC for the opportunity to work on this very important project. If there's any further assistance that I or any of the individual Commission members can provide, please feel free to let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Edward H. Hammond,  
Commission Chair