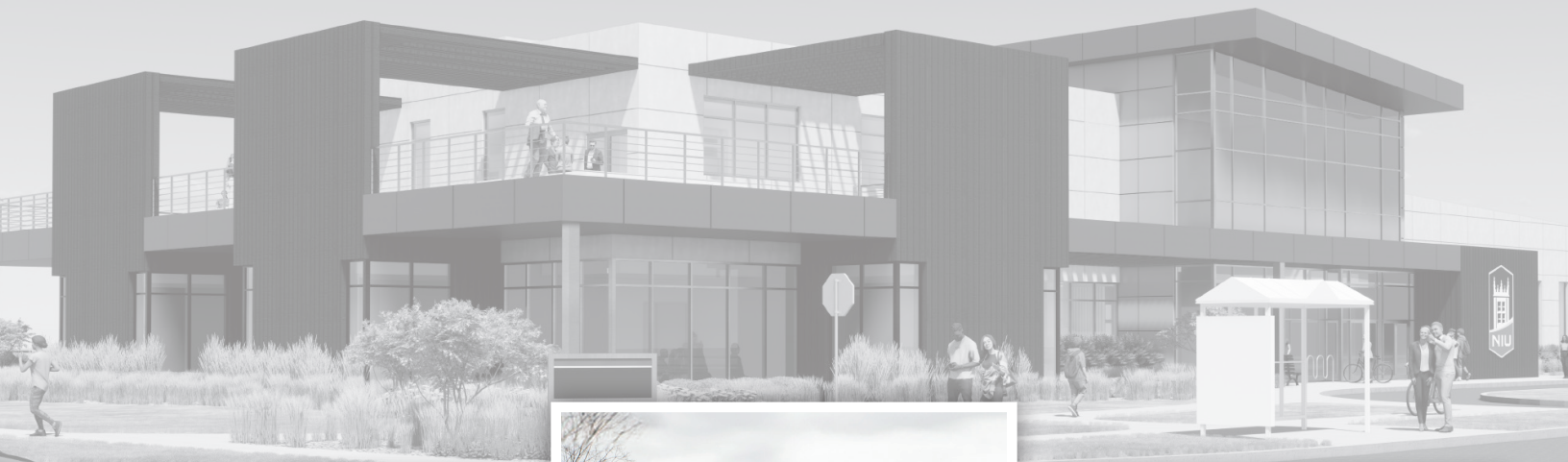




NIU FOUNDATION



A PROPOSAL FOR

THE NIU
CENTER FOR
GREEK LIFE



PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

At Northern Illinois University, we have embarked on a multimillion-dollar campaign, unparalleled in the school's history, to ensure that our university remains a source for innovation, a launchpad for success, and a bridge to unlimited possibilities.

The Center for Greek Life is a central element of this work.

THE NIU CENTER FOR GREEK LIFE

NIU will revitalize Greek Life with the creation of the Center for Greek Life, a central gathering space for fraternities and sororities that provides resources and opportunities to create civic engagement and offers leadership and professional development programming, all while strengthening a lifelong sense of unity among members.

The Center for Greek Life will serve as a catalyst for students who seek to advance NIU's public mission by addressing challenges, maximizing opportunities for the public good, taking informed and reflective action by providing key resources of support for students and bringing people together to affect positive change.

The Center will build upon enduring traditions and bring Greek-letter organizations together around these common values:

SERVICE:

Unselfish concern and advocacy for others through the donation of time or money.

SCHOLARSHIP:

Prioritizing, planning and taking responsibility for high academic achievement as members and chapters.

BROTHERHOOD & SISTERHOOD:

The process of providing equitable resources and opportunities and creating an inclusive environment for coexisting in harmony and appreciation of each other while holding each other accountable.

LEADERSHIP:

Resilience and passion for membership work for their chapter, council, student organization, or other activities on- or off-campus.

CULTURAL AWARENESS:

Understanding and accepting each other's cultural differences and identities.



"A HEALTHY AND VIBRANT GREEK COMMUNITY IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF A RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS AND IS CONSISTENT WITH NIU'S DESIRE FOR STUDENTS TO BUILD COMMUNITIES AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND OUR UNIVERSITY."

Lisa C. Freeman,
NIU President

CITY OF DEKALB GUIDES TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN GREEK ROW

The City of DeKalb is an active leader in developing community assets and designing new services in and around Greek Row, with more than \$5.5 million in neighborhood investments since 2017.

Central to this effort was the acquisition and demolition of buildings along West Hillcrest Drive.

The Center for Greek Life is an anchor facility in the redevelopment of this area. Guided by a neighborhood revitalization plan, the City is working with leading community voices to define future uses for adjacent properties.

Among the many City investments in the Greek Row neighborhood:

- Resurfacing local streets and sidewalks.
- Improving lighting and surveillance safety.
- Landscaping cul-de-sacs to quiet traffic on Edgebrook Drive and Kimberly Drive.
- Redesigning and renovating Welsh Park just south of Greek Row.

OUR REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE

In 2022, NIU President Lisa C. Freeman, charged a committee to analyze the state of Greek Life on campus. The Greek Life Revitalization Task Force was formed to assess the state of NIU's Greek community and offer recommendations on how to reengage students in the positive aspects of Greek Life and enhance the student experience.

Among the many findings, the Task Force identified the need for and benefit of expanded gathering spaces for both Greek students with and without chapter houses to help foster a sense of identity, community, and belonging.

Research with NIU's Greek alumni confirmed the Task Force's findings, highlighting the strong sense of community, meaningful relationships, and unique bonds they formed within Greek life at NIU.

BUILT IN THE HISTORIC AREA OF THE UNIVERSITY'S GREEK ROW NEIGHBORHOOD KNOWN AS ANNIE GLIDDEN NORTH (AGN), THE CENTER WILL ENHANCE COMMUNITY VITALITY, BOLSTER STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION, AND SPUR NEW INVESTMENT AND ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.

This Center will strengthen NIU's collaborative partnerships with local groups, organizations, and the DeKalb community and will remain committed to involving and supporting our fraternities and sororities every step of the way. With these distinguishing characteristics, we will differentiate and elevate the Greek Life experience at NIU from other schools.



THE CENTER FOR GREEK LIFE

AMPLIFYING IMPACT AT NIU

The Center for Greek Life will reinvigorate the Greek Life experience for NIU students, those residing in a community on Greek Row or elsewhere, as well as bring positive change to the quality of life for all residents of the Annie Glidden North neighborhood.

The Center will serve as a space for all members of fraternities and sororities at NIU to share and support an atmosphere where individuals can grow to reach their full academic and personal potential.

NIU sees the potential to increase the Greek population by creating a place where students want to study, socialize, and build a stronger, more unified Greek community. The Center will work to improve fraternity and sorority members, helping leaders bring about systemic change and sustainable progress in the AGN neighborhood. Students will learn to challenge conventional wisdom and develop innovative approaches to community engagement and leadership.

Member organizations have a rich history and focus on various cultural identities. All chapters will benefit from the Center for Greek Life through enhanced experiential and programmatic efforts, sparking synergy among all four Greek Councils. Furthermore, the Center will champion cultural awareness and diversity within the Greek system, further amplifying the identity of a majority of our students—including students of color, first-generation students, Pell-Grant eligible students and veterans.

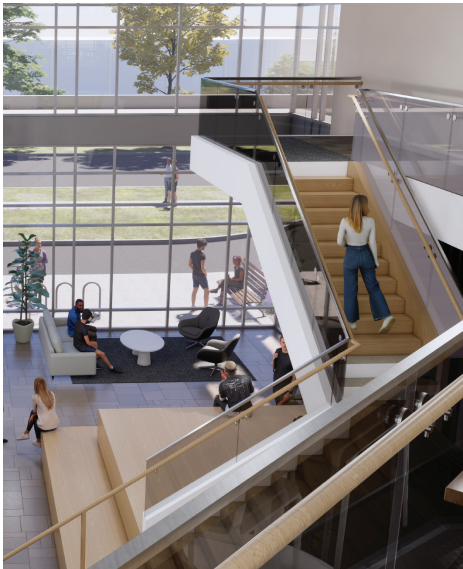


The Center will serve as the focus of student life and activity for Greek students. In partnership with the City of DeKalb, land was secured at the corner of Hillcrest Drive and Blackhawk Road in the Annie Glidden North neighborhood.

As a central location for all NIU fraternity and sorority constituents to gather, meet, eat and socialize, the Center will also be a dedicated space for Greek students to study, prepare for exams, complete projects and engage in group discussions related to their academic success. Additionally, an expansive event space will be included, which will be flexible for various group sizes to host events and interactive activities.



Conceptual architectural renderings are for illustrative purposes only and are subject to change.



Center features include:

- **Council and Chapter meeting spaces and conference rooms** for leadership workshops and community events tailored to the identities of the organizations, fostering a sense of unity and purpose among students.
- **Study and social lounge space** for Greek students to study, socialize and build community.
- **Fraternity and Sorority Life offices** providing Greek students easier access to staff and build stronger relationships.
- **Large event space** that converts into multiple smaller spaces, allowing for multiple events to happen concurrently.
- **An outdoor, year-round courtyard** with adjacency to the large event space for additional social and study areas.
- **Warming kitchen** for local catering services to utilize during events.
- **Food services** offering healthy snack options.

Alumni events, including Homecoming and alumni fundraisers for specific initiatives, as well as meetings of the Greek Alumni Council, will also be welcomed in this space, one our alumni can call “home.”

Early architectural plans have presented a 17,000 sq. ft. Center for Greek Life that will provide dedicated space for chapters affiliated with all four NIU Greek Councils and staff members.

The Center will have multiple naming opportunities, including the event space, courtyard, meeting rooms and the building itself.

TODAY'S GREEK LIFE EXPERIENCE IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER BEFORE



RECENT RESEARCH ON GREEK ORGANIZATIONS FINDS THAT PARTICIPATION IN GREEK LIFE FOSTERS POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH, SERVES AS A SUCCESS ACCELERATOR FOR STUDENTS, AND ENGENDERS TREMENDOUS LOYALTY AND CONNECTION TO THEIR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE.

Greek members experience stronger mental health and wellness.

Greek organizations empower students to create a strong support system. This family—this home—that Greeks provide is uniquely important on a college campus, one that offers help and guidance when a student needs it most. Research shows these connections create a strong sense of belonging, leading members to have more positive mental health and less anxiety and depression than other students¹.

Greek life is an accelerator for success in college and beyond.

Students spend 90% of their time outside the classroom. Greeks capitalize on those hours by providing activities, roles and opportunities that prepare students for success in college and in their futures far beyond what their peers experience. A recent study of thousands of alumni with diverse profiles shows this holds true regardless of an individual's background or socioeconomic status entering college. Because of higher expectations, as well as the support and network that Greek membership provides, members experience greater gains in learning³ and graduate at higher rates than their peers⁴. So, it is no surprise Greek alumni are twice as likely to believe their college experience prepared them well for life after graduation².

Fraternity and sorority members create lifelong connections to the campus, community and their peers.

Greek organization membership connects men and women to their alma mater in a way that nonmembers often don't experience. Members are more engaged inside and outside the classroom than their peers³—they report feeling more supported by their faculty³ and nearly half serve in leadership roles across campus⁵. They're also more connected to their local communities, with research showing they spend significantly more time volunteering than nonaffiliated students⁶.

NIU's Greek alumni develop successful careers across disciplines and stay connected long after graduation. Students develop a network of current and former Greeks, which can be valuable in finding mentors and making employment connections.

The Center for Greek Life will optimize these characteristics and expand the contributions of fraternities and sororities for the community.

1 Mental Health and Wellness for [fraternity/sorority] and Sorority Members; Biddix, Assalone and Grace

2 2021 Alumni Report, Gallup

3 The Greek Experience Revisited, Pike

4 Greek Values and Attitudes: A Comparison with Independents; Baier and Whipple

5 Greek and Values of Single Sex Experience, Postsecondary Education Research Center

6 Perspectives on [fraternity/sorority] and Sorority Life; Positive Youth Development, Everfi



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

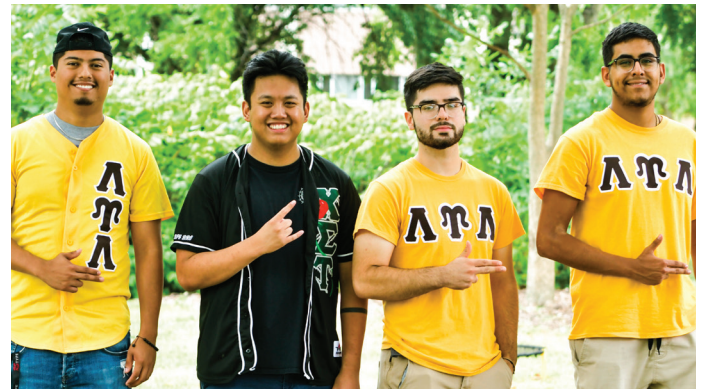
JOIN US IN MAKING THE CENTER FOR GREEK LIFE A REALITY!

With your gifts, NIU will be uniquely positioned to provide leadership to young men and women as we tackle the challenges of this century and beyond.

We need your help to ensure the future of Greek Life at NIU, the vital development of strong civic-minded leaders, and the valuable contributions they provide to our communities.

The initial fundraising goal for the Center for Greek Life is \$18 million, with \$13.5 million identified as initial construction costs, \$1.5 million for building furnishings and \$3 million for Center programming and ongoing maintenance.

Gifts to the Center for Greek Life stand as an opportunity for everyone's legacy to be seen and felt with naming opportunities for the facility itself and throughout its inside spaces.



WHEN YOU MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CENTER FOR GREEK LIFE, YOU'RE SIGNALING YOUR STEADFAST SUPPORT FOR THIS TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECT, FURTHERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR GREEK COMMUNITY TO SHINE AS A BEACON OF LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT NIU.

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Without a doubt, my Greek experience at NIU heavily influenced who I am today, and I'm incredibly grateful. The Center for Greek Life will help to ensure that future generations of Huskies are able to flourish as active members of the community in a collaborative way that wouldn't be possible without it. I'm excited for what's ahead.

RAAIF,
Alumnus, Former Executive
Vice President, IFC

“

Panhellenic is so excited for the NIU Center for Greek Life to become a site where we can put on formal recruitment, and where our associate chapters can have a place to meet with their sisters. The Center for Greek Life is the perfect space to bring all 8 of our chapters together in one place. I can't wait.

MARY,
Junior,
Panhellenic Council

“

The Center for Greek Life to me as an FSL Ambassador means endless new opportunities for all Greek councils to shine and to show unity throughout the school as well as our community. Together we will strive as one to make a bigger and better future for our Greek community!

XAVIER,
Sophomore,
FSL Ambassador

GREEK LIFE AT NIU: BY THE NUMBERS

(2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR)

Fraternity and sorority members build character, raise awareness of the needs of others, and give students perspective to positively affect social change. Building a cohesive community as a centralized place for these efforts—including those that support local social service agencies—will be a distinct benefit of the Center not only for Greek students but the larger neighborhood.

— 700 —
STUDENTS



*  *

— 4 —
GREEK COUNCILS

— 40 —
SORORITIES
AND
FRATERNITIES

— \$52,000 —
RAISED



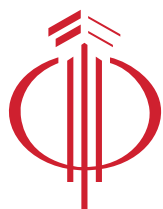


— 8,200 —
ITEMS DELIVERED



— 11,300 —
VOLUNTEER HOURS

— 400 —
EVENTS



NIU FOUNDATION

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