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Beta Theta Pi

● ● ● Announces Strategic Plan

Calls on University Presidents to Join Substance-Free Housing Movement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OXFORD, OHIO, February 2, 2018 – Including a passionate, continued [rejection of hazing](#) as a part of the fraternity experience, as well as the expansion of its [substance-free housing policy](#) across the organization by August 2020, Beta Theta Pi's Board of Trustees announced today its commitment to [six initial strategies](#) that will chart the organization's future.

The Trustees' announcement comes after critical evaluation of the campus environments in which its undergraduate chapters exist, 20 years of experience with its Men of Principle initiative, two years of strategic planning, and a year of careful analysis following the tragic death of Penn State new member Timothy Piazza. Today, February 2, marks the one-year anniversary of the events that led to his heartbreaking passing.

"This reform movement is necessary and historic," said Men of Principle Initiative Spokesman and U.S. Senator (Ret.) Richard Lugar, *Denison '54*. "When the Men of Principle initiative was adopted 20 years ago, we were way out in front. It led to our interfraternal leadership in virtually all respects. But more is needed – from all fraternities and the university institutions they call home. So, it is the basis for Beta's courageous leadership now."

Believing multiple approaches are necessary for Beta to contribute meaningfully in the reshaping of Greek life, General Secretary Wayne Kay, *Virginia Tech '73*, also issued a call to all university and college presidents who oversee Greek communities:

"With young men's safety as our most important responsibility, fraternities across North America need a stronger helping hand in dealing with the substance abuse that plagues them. Given the longstanding relationship that has existed between fraternities and higher education, we call upon all university and college presidents to join the growing movement of inter/national fraternities and peer campuses wanting to make true, systemic cultural change through substance-free housing. While there are no silver bullets, no greater medicine exists at this juncture than to address the environmental conditions that are incubating the very issues causing harm to our young students, the chapter houses they occupy and the campuses of which they are a part. Substance-free housing is actually the original tradition of fraternity group-living, and university and college presidents have unique authority and leverage to influence significant change in this arena."

With a focus on Brotherhood, Personal Growth and a sense of Home at all levels of the organization, Beta's strategic plan includes a multi-year rollout that is rooted in the organization's mission to develop men of principle for a principled life.

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Beta Theta Pi is a college fraternity committed to developing men of principle for a principled life. Founded in 1839, today Beta serves more than 10,000 undergraduate members on 138 campuses across North America, 133,000 living-alumni members and some 2,000 volunteers. The Fraternity's Administrative Office is located near its founding site at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

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