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Alpha Kappa Delta
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Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociological Honor Society Administrators and Future Members,

This letter is an expression of my gratitude for the AKD administration as well as a challenge to future AKD members. Sociologists are able to recognize the importance of the individual, especially after taking into account surrounding social forces. This particular sociologist wishes to recognize the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociological Honor Society as a crucial force in my college experience. Whether implicitly as a form of identity and status or explicitly through its quarterly publication and funding opportunities, AKD membership has proven to be a valuable asset in my budding career.

As an individual, I recognized that simply being a part of a student organization did little for the job resume or the college experience. What matters is the experience gained *through* student organizations; merely identifying with a group differs from performing a role within the group. I wanted my role in AKD to be meaningful and therefore it was meaningful. I wanted to behave as a manager, leader, analyst, fundraiser, public relations specialist, project coordinator, consultant, website developer, etc. Through AKD, I created opportunities to perform these roles. Personal motivation plays an important role, but every student can attempt similar activities through any organization. AKD, however, is not simply an organization or some extracurricular activity but rather AKD is a network of academics who specialize in the sociological machinations I hope to perform in the professional realm.

As a student organization, first and foremost, AKD is composed of chapter advisors. While chapters certainly vary, the AKD-Alpha of Nebraska Chapter Advisor, Professor Olu Oyinlade, provided our members a sense of pride and identification that all members, regardless of chapter affiliation, should carry. We are elite students and, as such, we should be leading the way and setting the standard for our peers. I took it upon myself to fully embody this spirit each time I spoke with our advisor, the department chair and other departmental faculty, as well as campus- and community-wide actors. "Hello. My name is Adam and I represent the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociological Honor Society. Do you have a moment to speak with me?"

As an international organization, I can personally speak to the support AKD provides through its peer-reviewed journal and the various opportunities for funding. As a student-for-life, I am always delighted to read the Wiley Blackwell quarterly publication for AKD, *Sociological Inquiry*. Free to all dues-paying members, *SI* articles served as a guideline for my own thesis work by providing a quality benchmark. Not only are AKD members exposed to other sociologists through articles but also through face-to-face interactions, thanks to travel funds. For three years, I have attended the Midwest Sociological Society almost completely free of charge thanks to AKD chapter grants. The sessions I attended, the certificates I earned, and the people I met were all made possible by AKD headquarters.

All in all, AKD has impacted my life in a thoroughly positive manner. If it is worth doing, it is worth doing well and the honor society environment is filled with all kinds of opportunities to excel. We, as students, are only limited by our imagination. My identity as an elite does not simply stem from a name or membership with a particular organization but through the people that compose AKD and the top-down support AKD provides each and every student. Thanks to all the individuals who work diligently to make AKD a true social force.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments regarding my time with the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociological Honor Society!

Yours faithfully,

Adam J Maley
AKD Life Member

