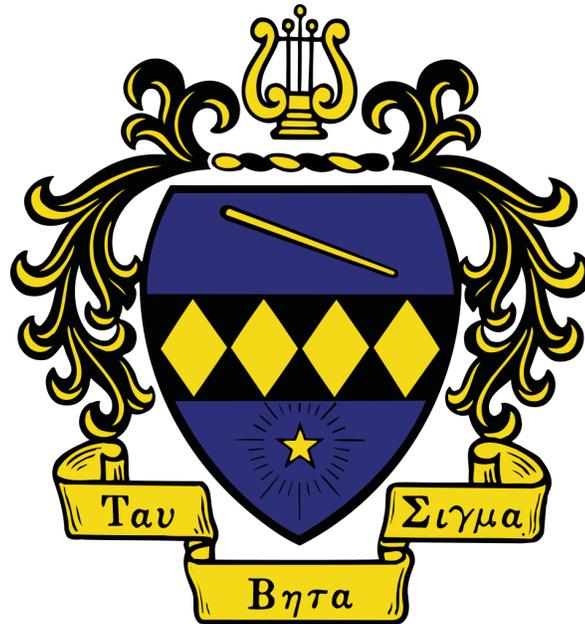


## District Leadership Conference 2017 | Virtual Guest Speakers Feature Transcript



**Guest Speakers:** Erika Pope and Kelly Nellis

**Topic:** How to Lead Within a Chapter Without A Title

**Stenographer:** Mitchell Vareldzis & Alex Vinger (KKΨ Beta Omicron)

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**Erika:** My name is erika and I am currently serving as the tbs national vice president of student recognition.

**Kelly:** I was VPSA last biennium and right now i am an awesome life member. I was a chapter president and a MAL. At MDWC and mentions for National Council and got VPSA two years after. [Video begins here] I was never a district officer but I was a chapter officer and I was involved in many other different ways and helped in other ways throughout the years. I want to emphasize there are many things I have done to help get to the position I am. You don't have to have a title to do things and be a role model and make the bnd better and all those little things you can do. It ultimately led to me wanting to do something. I never saw myself getting National Council but it is all about being a leader without a title.

**Erika:** I was a chapter officer at Beta Eta but it was one of those situations I was president three years in a row and I had a chance to be a DO. I was a DO in 05-06 and then took a break and made Council in the southwest. I started to think about all the positions I upheld and people have told me I would be good at xyz and as you examine KKPsi & TBS role is when people see things

in you you don't see in yourself. I don't think I would have been able to accomplish all these things without people backing me up and helping me out. They looked at the grand scheme of it all. It takes a lot of moving parts. Sometimes the people backing you up are the most important.

**Kelly:** Going off what Erika said is we want you to find a way to influence your chapters and the things you can do whether you are an officer or not. Sometimes the smallest things can make the biggest difference.

**Erika:** Chapter outweighs those with title. I want to illustrate the ratio of leaders to chapter body.

**Kelly:** I think it is worth pointing out you all traveled here and not everyone is in an officer capacity but you are here to learn and make the chapter better. You are being a leader sitting here as it is. What you and your chapter needs to do is just support each other. There are people that pushed me to do more things than i thought i could do. If bro/sis is getting something together and they are unsure, spread confidence and assist them if necessary and if you can be there that's great but be sure to support them. Find your friends in the chapter. If you want to make a change and are unsure of how to make that change then you can talk to officers and start influencing the change yourself. Set the example. As you get older, there will be new members *that are already looking up to you*. If you can start to be that person and set the example then you are already being the influence. Set the example.

**Erika:** In both organizations there are projects someone kpsi talk about five stories and focus on five.

*[At 12:08, District Officers are asking for volunteers to speak for them, cuts to the speaker.]*

**Volunteer Speaker:** Focus on five is eight different programs that are supported by nationals and build the five stripes and three lyre pieces on the flag. Three are suggested by nationals.

**Dale (From Beta Omicron):** Kappa Kappa Psi has our five purposes that direct our passions and the fraternity. It sets the precedent of how we treat each other as a whole.

**Erika:** on the tbs and focus on five, it is something we want chapters to participate in for national participation. One thing that the program has provided is an outlet for those without an office and want to contribute in some way. *This is a great way to get lack of title leaders to contribute in this way*. I'm sure all of you can think of something where working at a high level and something gets missed. Anything that you have that is a nationally encouraged project, figure out ways for those who could in turn become someone with a title from their

contributions. Find those little moments where we can use people's gifts to help them with what they are good at.

**Kelly:** As we move on to being a leader/officer and we get into the real world. "*When we get where you're going don't forget turn back around help the next one in line always be humble and kind*" Tim McGraw. The little things you do without a title is what builds you as a leader. Without a title you are still a leader. Keep on going then help the next one in line.

### **Western District Question & Answer Session (10 min)**

#### **Questions:**

**Lauren (from Alpha Chi):** We talked about being a leader without a role. How do you go from someone who has always had a role and is now taking the step down?

**Erika:** it happens. It is one of those situations where someone will hang longer and then take a step down to focus. You want to step in and see what you have done from a different view.

**Kelly:** Transition documents are really easy. If there are previous documents that you have made during your time, and help the transition to be smooth.

**Erika:** make sure you have good attitude and be respectful of the new generation. Always be open and available during transition.

**Amber (from Alpha Chi):** For bros/sis who graduate and go into career not in music, what advice do you have for staying involved in music?

**Kelly:** continue to support the bands. If there are ways that your directors allow you to be involved then take the opportunity. Community bands are always looking for more people.

**Erika:** Organizationally, we don't have many alumni affiliates but we have the district one. Chapter alumni affiliates exist and you should look into that too. In terms of musicality, it is great if you can find an ensemble to play with or build your own. Find a group to be with and it is gratifying. Go to concerts and support the groups in your community. Find it and be a part of it.

**Oscar (from Mu Phi):** What instrument do you play?

**Erika:** percussion and currently a drummer in my band

**Kelly:** color guard in marching band and clarinet in sit down band

**Oscar (from Mu Phi):** Regarding leadership training and character development, but how do you experience failure?

**Kelly:** I ran for VPSA but did not get elected. The transfer is gloomy because you can't always win life. *You learn a lot from yourself and you have these moments like okay, what am i going to do to make this better. Failure is going to happen and you should not feel negative about it at all. Don't be afraid to talk about it either. It becomes a relatable conversation.*

**Erika:** *The biggest thing is to be truthful with yourself and some of us don't like to admit we have failed but it happens. Being honest with yourself when you have failed and be sure to examine what went wrong and how to improve from it. Examine the 'failure' and figure out if you want to do it again. Don't get stuck in tradition. You win some you lose some. Everyone who functions at a high level is going to fail at some point.*

**Alyssa (From Iota Kappa) [Originally from Mitchell from Beta Omicron]:** What advice do you have for those who want to serve at a chapter and district level, who may also have a passion for their chapter and district but may not have the on paper qualifications for the role they're most passionate about?

**Kelly:** I think that there are two sides to it. The idea is that you believe you can do the position and even if you don't have the qualities to possess it you'll want to focus on what you can do to make up for the fact you don't have the on paper qualities. And so what does the office require? What kind of skills can you bring to that office that would make you successful? How can you tell nominations or your chapter or what else that you are qualified position? Just by the fact that you don't have the qualifications. Because sometimes being on paper isn't everything. Because sometimes, you don't need all the on paper qualifications. For example, when I was getting internships in college, I applied for an HR internship and an IT Internship and I was a Psychology Major with a management minor.

I ended up getting picked for an IT Internship, which some people were like "you are a Psychology Major and now you work in IT?" and it's a little weird. But what I had actually used a lot of my fraternal resume about the skills I had that would make me a good IT business analyst. I was detail-oriented. I can stay on task. I can run a meeting, have great communication skills, and that kind of stuff. So, you just kind of have to guide people a certain way to get them to understand that you would successful in this position.

Erika: So, it's really important that you kind of know the job inside and out. A lot of research is important. So, for example, if you are interested in VPM or for the Kappa Kappa Psi side the MALs, knowing what the job entails, and looking at what it is outside the Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta sigma bubbles, look at what you've done beyond the band program that has helped. That has helped with the particular position. It all runs together and all within itself. I can tell in my career that in my last two jobs because of my membership with Tau Beta Sigma. Actually, the last three jobs [be]cause I took this one as I had another. And that's just knowing that is really important to know if you need to make a move and when to make that move. Your gut will tell you those things. So, my association with Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi. Even if you weren't able to go to Convention, but you see something outside of what you're doing, and when you're pitching yourself for someone you need the vote for.

Kelly: Do we get closing remarks?

The District says thank you in sync to Kelly and Erika.

Closings:

**Kelly:** I was just wanting to say thank you for letting us do this and if you have any questions or what not, you can email us.

Erika: Thank you for having us. I'm so sorry I can't attend WDC. You are my Xanadu and I have to go to Midwest.

*If there's more questions or comments, to contact Kelly Nellis at [kellynellis@kkpsi.org](mailto:kellynellis@kkpsi.org) and Erika Pope at [erikapope@tbsigma.org](mailto:erikapope@tbsigma.org).*