

Michigan State Statement

The Michigan State Chapter is honored to have received the second place award for the 2020 Building Better Men Program. We'd like to first thank and recognize the Garatonis for their gracious donation to the Foundation and for serving as a lasting reminder that we are indeed ONE Triangle. Although we are happy to accept the award itself, we feel that there is a better use for the money that comes with it. The importance of a CEF cannot be understated. As Triangle members we adhere to a code of ethics, one that requires us to - among other things - maintain a creditable scholastic record, promote the ideals of our Fraternity, and uphold the tradition and program of our alma mater.

We are fortunate enough to be able to use our CEF to improve our academics, provide additional study materials, and also to offset some of the costs of programs that are run by the National Office and supported by the Foundation. There are so many things that our members across the country are working on and trying to improve in their respective chapters and in the organization as a whole, so we asked ourselves - is a contribution to the Michigan State Chapter Endowment Fund really the best use of the donation that the Garatonis made? It is our understanding that the Garatonis contribution was made to ultimately improve the organization as a whole. Since we have an established CEF, we felt we needed to follow in the footsteps of our Brothers from Ohio State and direct that money to a place where it could be more impactful. After careful consideration we have decided to use our \$25,000 award to fund a CEF for a chapter that doesn't have one.

Throughout the past decade, starting with a chapter **visit** following the 2011 National Convention - we have been cultivating a close relationship with the members of the recipient chapter. From chapter visits, to personal friendships, to football games and everything in between, we have learned what it is "to be a true brother to EACH member of Triangle" regardless of where they call home. Brotherhood doesn't end inside our chapters, it doesn't end with our pledge brothers or our graduating class members; rather it extends beyond state lines and graduation years. It extends beyond race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation from our founders to our brothers that will be undergraduates long after we have left this earth.

We are One Triangle and we are so excited to establish the Kentucky Chapter Endowment Fund with a donation of \$25,000. We are ecstatic to play a small part in helping the chapter improve and succeed in their goals. Thank you, Judy and Larry Garatoni - for starting this initiative. Go Cats, and Go Green!