

2017-2018 Midwest District President
Jessica McAdam (Stookey)
Zeta Nu - University of Northern Iowa

Midwest District Convention
March 31 - April 2



To the sisters of the Midwest District,

My name is Jessica McAdam, and I would like to be the next President of the Midwest District. I am a Senior at the University of Northern Iowa, but I know that I have another year ahead of me. I am majoring in Elementary and Middle Level Education with a Basic Science Minor and specialties in Math and Social Studies. If you weren't at the 2016 Midwest District Convention, then you missed a life changing speech where David Stookey asked me to marry him. Starting in July, I won't be Jessica McAdam, I will be Jessica Stookey.

I was initiated into the Zeta Nu chapter at UNI on November 17, 2013. Since then I have been an extremely active member. I have served as the Zeta Nu Vice President of Membership, Zeta Nu President, and Midwest District Vice President of Membership. I have served on 6 committees, visited 4 District Days, this is my third District Convention, and this summer will be my second National Convention.

My personal strengths are organization, responsibility, motivation, and communication. I use Google Calendar and my personal planner to keep my school life organized, and it has also helped me become more organized in my entire life. I have learned how to be responsible for my own learning in the majority of my education major classes. Throughout college, motivation to get my homework and readings done has been tough. However, I have overcome this by rewarding myself somehow when I get my work completed. I always try to respond as soon as possible when someone contacts me because I know everyone has a limited amount of time to work on tasks and if someone is waiting for a response, they may not have enough time to finish the task and be successful.

I want to be the next Midwest District President because I have the experience and the drive to continue the excellence the Midwest District has come to expect out of its district officers. Tau Beta Sigma deserves great leaders at the helm and I believe I can provide what the District wants and needs. Tau Beta Sigma has become a very important part of my life and I want to give back. I feel the best way for me to give back is to be a district leader.

Jessica McAdam

Platform

The Midwest District President is a position that many people look up to as the year goes on. I'd like to be that person for the 2017-2018 school year. I believe in leaving the position better than how I found it and I will do this by focusing on five items: communication about District Days, chapter buddies, monthly chats, officer resources, and a personal goal of mine.

The first thing is communication about District Days, they are fun weekends full of learning, growing, and sisterhood. It hurts a chapter when there isn't anyone there to participate. At the February District Day at Mizzou, someone brought up that it would be a great idea to go Live on Facebook during District Days and I thought that was a fantastic idea! Obviously, we wouldn't be able to do it if there was a presentation or discussion about ritual. For this idea to work effectively, we can have a member of the District Council or host chapter watching the comments for questions from people around the District. This allows someone who couldn't make it to a District Day because of the weather, distance, or another conflict a way to still participate in the talks. Along with making District Day discussions more accessible to people around the District, planning and advertising the topics earlier and more effectively would make the weekends and workshops run smoother.

The second item I would like to improve is the use of Chapter Buddies. The majority of the District probably does not know what this is but improving this communication can benefit every chapter. Currently the District Officers split up the chapters and send our "chapter buddies" monthly or biweekly emails in an attempt to keep the chapters updated on what is happening on a district level. These items include upcoming events, deadlines and other district wide announcements. I would like to continue and expand this program by having the District Officers video chat into each of their chapter buddies' meetings at least once or twice a semester. Having all of the officers, including myself, virtually attend a meeting will give them a good insight into how the chapter is doing. It also makes the District Council more visible to everyone in every chapter. Instead of just being names in an MEP or the people who email me occasionally it gives members a face to associate with

the district leadership. This can be especially useful for chapters who do not have many members attend convention and/or district days and therefore do not meet the District Council.

My third initiative, would be to start monthly officer chats, similar to MWDAC (Midwest District Advisory Council), but just for certain officers (Presidents, VPMs, etc.) to meet and talk about what is working in their chapters, what is not. These chats are a way to give chapter officers new ideas on what they can work on to make their chapter stronger. This would be a District-wide effort and would require all the chapters' officers to participate. The District Officer(s) would facilitate the discussion but from there it would be a chapter helping chapter meeting to make every chapter in the Midwest the better. People will ask "Why does this benefit me?" well, it will make your position easier if everyone is helping you out. It will save time and effort, brainstorming ideas that may or may not work. For instance, if your chapter is struggling on a fundraising idea or a service idea, you can just bring it up at the monthly meeting and the other officers in your meeting will more than likely be able to help you out. The timing of these chats are important if they are going to be successful. These chats will contain similar brainstorming and discussion to sessions that happen at convention, however, instead of occurring at the end of the year when you are finishing up your term these could be held early in the year. If people had access to these ideas at the beginning of their term chapters may be able to do more innovative things and in turn be more successful. The District Officer(s), leading the discussions, would be ready ahead of time with some ideas. Then as a follow up they will converse at the weekly District Officer meeting and talk about what went well and what we think could improve for next time.

The final idea I have is to help and ensure that every officer in every chapter has transition documents for their predecessors. These officer resources would include tracking what each position does each year, and whether it was good or bad. They should also detail how an event can be improved or if it would be better to abandon it entirely. Having transition documents keeps positions moving forward instead of recycling through success, failure, regrowth when it is not necessary. We've all seen positions in our chapter

go through this cycle and it is not fun for anyone involved. If each officer has resources to pass on to the next officer detailing what they did, then the next officer doesn't have to reinvent the wheel therefore increasing efficiency and helping transitions occur smoothly. Being an education major, I am always told not to reinvent the wheel, to look somewhere to get ideas and use those as the basis to create our own.

Finally, a personal goal of mine is to travel to every chapter in the District. I have yet to visit Wichita State, North Dakota State, South Dakota State, or Kansas State and I'd really like to visit those four schools throughout the 2017-2018 school year because, like the changes I'm proposing to chapter buddies program it gives a face to the district council. The visit would not be super formal but just be a sisterly visit with the Chapters and their members!

My platform above only highlights a few ideas that could make the district better. As the year progresses other items may arise that could improve the district even more. I am very flexible and only want to do what is best for the district. My overall goal is simple, help the chapters in the Midwest District grow and continue to be the most successful and united chapters in the nation. Midwest is best!

Platform Recap

- Communication
 - District Days
 - Get more people there → more advertising/more effective planning
 - Facebook live feed (not ritual related stuff)
 - Chapter Buddies
 - District Officers video chat their buddies once/twice a semester
 - Continue monthly/biweekly emails with updates
 - Officer Chats
 - Getting all of 1 position together to help chapters out
 - “Why does this benefit me?”
 - Make their position easier, save time and effort
 - When would these happen??
 - Beginning of the year
 - Monthly/Bimonthly
 - As determined by those officers at the beginning of the year
 - Whenever a chapter needs
- Officer Resources
 - Transition Documents to track what they do each year (Good vs Bad)
 - Keeps position moving forward instead of cycles of success, failure, regrowth
 - Don't reinvent the wheel!
- Personal Goal → Travel More
 - Chapter visits
 - Have yet to visit
 - NDSU, SDSU, WSU, K-State

Jessica McAdam

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Phone – (319) 521-7086

Education

University of Northern Iowa

Expected Graduation

May 2018

- Majors – Elementary Education; Middle Level Education
 - Minor – Basic Science
 - Concentration Areas – Social Studies and Math
 - Classification – Senior
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Work

Target

2014 – Present

- Unload truck and sort packages according to department. Distribute packages and stock shelves.
- Fold and put away stock in the clothing department, train new clothing department employees, back-up cashiers when needed, answer and direct phone calls.

Piazza

2013 – Present

- Prepare and serve food in one of UNI's campus dining centers.
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Extracurricular

Panther Marching Band Fall Semesters

2013 – Present

- Staff Manager
- Clarinet Section Leader

2017 – Present

2015 – 2016

Pep Band

2013 – 2017

- Captain

2014 – 2016

Sorority

Active

November 2013

Midwest Vice President of Membership

2016 – 2017

Zeta Nu President

2016 – 2017

Zeta Nu Vice President of Membership

2015 – 2016

Committees

Membership

2013 – Present

- Committee Head

2015 – 2016

Joint Fellowship

2015 – Present

Midwest Advisory Council

2015 – 2016

Ways and Means

2014 – 2016

Band Banquet

2013 – Present

National Sisterhood and Spirit

July 2015

Midwest Convention Site

March 2015



University of Northern Iowa
Panther Marching Band

To: Tau Beta Sigma Mid-West District
From: Danny Galyen
Re: Jessica McAdam

I have had the great pleasure of having Jessica as my student in the UNI Marching Band for the past three years. During this time she has become a crucial member of our Zeta Nu chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. Since becoming a member our chapter in 2013, she has taken on numerous responsibilities that have been of significant benefit to both the chapter and our band. Jessica has served on numerous committees, including Fundraising, Parliamentarian, Membership, Band Banquet, Joint Fellowship, Midwest Convention Site, Midwest Advisory Council, National Sisterhood and Spirit. Last year she served as our Vice President of Membership and worked diligently to lead initiatives to increase our membership, as well as teaching all education classes. She currently serves as President of Zeta Nu and the Mid-West District Vice President for Membership. She has attended a number of district and national events, including District Day in 2013 and 2016, Midwest Convention in 2015, and the National Convention in 2015. Recently she became a Life Member of TBS, and has traveled extensively on behalf of the sorority to Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kentucky. She has also previously served as Clarinet Section Leader for the Panther Marching Band.

Jessica is hardworking, dedicated, and organized. She is thoughtful and sincere, and is well liked by her peers and by our band staff. As District President, she will work diligently to strengthen the quality of Tau Beta Sigma. Her interpersonal skills, problem solving abilities, and ability to work with people of differing opinions make her the perfect candidate for this position. Her vast experience with service leadership positions in Tau Beta Sigma, at both the chapter and district level, are impressive. I give Jessica my very strongest recommendation for Mid-West District President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Galyen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Galyen
Director of Marching and Symphonic Bands
University of Northern Iowa
danny.galyen@uni.edu
319-273-2173

March 4, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to recommend Jessica McAdam of the Zeta Nu chapter, for the position of Midwest District President. I have known Jessica since my freshman year at the University of Northern Iowa, when we met through the Panther Marching Band. During the time I was joining, as well as when I was an active member, I got to know Jessica better as well. Jessica has helped our chapter quite a bit in her time here, as Vice President for Membership her junior year, and this year as our President. Jessica is a great teacher, positive, always willing to help, a great friend, and very dedicated. I have witnessed all of these through her work in Tau Beta Sigma.

Throughout this past year, I have had the privilege to watch her work as our chapter's President as well as our District Vice President for Membership. As president, she has helped our chapter by creating new attendance policies, working on our constitution, being organized, getting things done in a timely matter, and being enthusiastic about everything that our chapter does. Jessica is always in attendance no matter what the event that we are holding. It is very obvious to those in our chapter, as well as other members of the bands, how much time and how much Jessica cares about Tau Beta Sigma.

I have also been able to see Jessica work as the District Vice President for Membership. When I was elected as our chapter's Vice President for Membership, Jessica and I instantly got to work on our chapters Membership Education Plan. She was always ready and willing to answer my questions, no matter how silly they were. She made writing the Membership Education Plan so much easier since I knew that I always had someone to turn to for help. The work that she put into our chapter's Membership Education Plan made me think about the work that she also put into other chapter's Membership Education Plans, and I know that she has benefited the district so much through her work.

Jessica is very dedicated to Tau Beta Sigma. No matter what task she is handed, she always figures out a way to come up with the solution. Through all of her work and time that she has put into Tau Beta Sigma, I know she will apply this to the District President position as well. I highly recommend Jessica for Midwest District President.

Sincerely,

Morgan McDowell
Vice President for Membership – Zeta Nu
University of Northern Iowa
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319-541-1997

Curriculum & Instruction Department

College of Education

February 22, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Jessica McAdam for District President of Tau Beta Sigma. I have known Ms. McAdam since August 2016 when I had the privilege of having her in my course, Elementary Curriculum.

As a student, Jessica demonstrated the level of commitment and professionalism necessary to succeed in college and beyond. She possessed a willingness to take intellectual risks, and she led by example. Her persistence and dedication were evident in her course assignments; Jessica consistently turned in high-quality work. When given constructive feedback, she responded in an accepting way and applied suggestions readily. Jessica was also an excellent team player. Her peers responded to her as a strong working member of their team, and I observed the exceptional working relationship she had with each one of them. Jessica collaborated with her group members very well because of her positive communication skills, inclusive personality, and sense of humor.

I feel Ms. McAdam would be an excellent District President. She has been involved in this sorority since Fall 2013 where she has served on numerous committees, been UNI's chapter Vice President of Membership, UNI's President, and the District's Vice President for Membership. Her level of involvement and commitment is outstanding.

I am pleased to be able to provide this letter for someone who is so deserving. Jessica has my respect and my highest recommendation. I strongly encourage you to consider her for this position. If you have any further questions with regard to her qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jodi Johnson

University of Northern Iowa
Instructor, Elementary Curriculum
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