

Julie Bruns

Theta Mu Chapter

University of Nebraska at Kearney



Midwest District

Vice President of Membership

2018-2019

To the 2018 Tau Beta Sigma Midwest District,

My name is Julie Bruns, and I would first like to express my excitement and interest of running for the position of Vice President of Membership for the Midwest District Council for the 2018-2019 school year. I am currently a senior at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, however, I do have another semester of classes and a semester of student teaching ahead of me. I am double majoring in Elementary and Early Childhood Inclusive Education; teaching young children is one of my biggest passions.

I officially joined the Theta Mu chapter on November 16, 2014. Soon after, I became very active within my chapter by becoming the chair of our Sisterhood and Spirit Committee after a position opened up mid-semester. With the help of my fellow sisters, I stepped up and took on the position which led me to several other leadership roles after that. The next year I continued as chair of this committee, joined our Executive Board as the chapter's Historian, and became one of our representatives of MWDAC. The next year I got the opportunity to be our Vice President and the chair of the Membership Committee, as well as the chair of our Banquet Committee that is in charge of working with our Kappa Kappa Psi chapter to put together a celebration at the end of our marching season. This year, I have continued my work as the Vice President in my chapter and once again helped a new class of Prospective Members become full members of our sorority. Along with the different positions I have held, I have also had some opportunities to attend different district and national events. This is my fourth District Convention I have attended and have participated in three District Days. I was very excited to attend my first National Convention last summer in Orlando where I had the opportunity to be a proxy for one of our own Midwest chapters. It was definitely an experience that helped me see and learn about Tau Beta Sigma in an entirely new way.

Some of my strengths that I bring to the table include effective communication skills, organization and a positive attitude. These three attributes have definitely helped me, not only through just my college experience thus far, but have helped me get a long

way in life in general. These aspects have also evolved through my experience in different leadership positions throughout my chapter as well as other activities on campus. Not only is having good communication skills needed in being successful in any position, but it's just as important to have time management skills that help you to communicate effectively in a timely manner. I have gotten the most of my college experience by being very active in many organizations and activities on my campus. Being so involved has allowed me to improve my organizational skills. I am very organized with my personal schedule of keeping track of everything I have going on, while giving myself timelines to make sure all of my schoolwork and extracurricular work is done by the time it's needed. Lastly, I am extremely passionate about positivity and how it can really impact the way you look at life, handle different tasks or problem-solve situations. Through my experience on my marching band's leadership team, I have seen how the positive energy and outlook presented by different members in our band can easily affect the outlook of other members and can improve the productivity and overall morale of the band.

For the last two years, I have had the wonderful opportunity to be Vice President of my chapter, Theta Mu. With this position, I have been in charge of the entire membership process including our recruitment week, our big sister and big brother reveals, as well as all of the membership education classes. I have absolutely loved how this position had combined two of my passions: teaching and Tau Beta Sigma. As my two-year term ends for my chapter, I would love to use all my experience and passion to continue working with the membership in Tau Beta Sigma, but on the district level. I feel as though I would use my organization skills, as well as my positivity and passion for the organization to help me succeed in this position. Tau Beta Sigma has ultimately had such a profound impact on my life, and it brings me much joy to be able to help other people learn more and find their own love in this organization.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julie Bruns, Theta Mu

Platform Statement

To the members of the Midwest District of Tau Beta Sigma,

From my experience of being the Vice President and Membership Chair of my chapter for the past two years, I know first-hand the work and time that goes into putting together an MEP. Not only that, I know the communication and planning that goes into implementing all of those ideas and activities that are described in the MEP. This year, I felt that Susie did a great job of trying to make the process as easy as possible. The biggest way I think to do this is through increasing communication. This year, we were able to do two Google Hangout chats with other vice presidents or membership chairs in our district. We also used a Google Doc form to fill out and answer different questions pertaining to what our chapters do for different recruitment activities, membership classes, or retention ideas. Susie also created a Facebook page for all of us to use as a communication tool for collaborating with other chapters.

Overall, I felt like all of these methods helped us get new ideas for different events, and helped us get to know and communicate more with other chapters. It's a great way to bounce ideas off of one another or be able to share any creative ideas you personally have come up with that works for your chapter. As these formats really helped us get our ideas out there, I feel as though these docs and the Facebook page were left alone after our initial meetings. If selected for this office, I would like to see this communication and collaboration continue between chapters, and I want to personally try to help chapters make use of these resources. This could be done with using the Facebook page more often and making sure all of the resources are available there and easy to access. I personally felt like it was hard to know what to post on there, but if there were more prompts pertaining to what a lot of the chapters were doing at the moment, like recruitment, membership education classes, etc., people could post pictures or describe different activities that they did. Then, if other chapters had any questions or comments, they could respond to their post. I think that this would help with more of a collaboration between chapters as well as a space for VPs to ask any questions or get suggestions from other sisters.

Another extremely important piece of being the VPM is looking over and giving feedback on chapters' Membership Education Plan (MEP). With my prior experience I know that this is a tedious process, but also extremely crucial. Personally, after constructing a MEP for my chapter for two years, I know the importance of the VPM's feedback can be. I plan to make sure the VPs have full access to the MEP template that was recently updated, as well as a few examples of good MEPs that they can use to help them see what it should look like. I would also strive to give feedback in a timely manner to ensure that the VPs can fix any correction in enough time to begin the recruiting process. If selected, I would make sure all of these resources are available

starting in the summer, so that VPs have the all the tools they need to complete this process and have it approved by their Fall recruiting.

Platform Overview:

- Give helpful and constructive feedback on MEP in a timely manner.
- Provide VPs with examples of good MEPs as well as the MEP template.
- Continue Google Hangouts with Vice Presidents or people in charge of Membership within their chapter. Planning one at the start of each semester to discuss the start of the recruiting process or where they are at in membership education.
- Create a shared Google Doc discussing what chapters are doing for different events to share ideas, collaborate, and highlight chapters' successful recruitment and reeducation ideas with one another.
- Continue the Membership Facebook page and make sure all members are updated for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Use the Facebook page more frequently and give more prompts for VPs to talk and discuss.
- Post any discussions from Google Hangout docs on the Facebook page so that they are all in one place and easy to access.

Everything I have mentioned above covers many of my biggest goals to accomplish during my possible term. However, with all that being said, the goal I find most important is assisting in the growth of new members into this wonderful organization. Over the past four years, I have become extremely passionate for Tau Beta Sigma, and honestly want nothing more but to help others acquire more knowledge about the organization. I want to help individuals uncover their own potential and develop leadership skills, not only within the organization, but throughout their life in general. This organization has given me so many skills and opportunities to help me grow as a better person and leader, therefore, I would be honored to be a part of the process of assisting others to do the same.

Julie Bruns

3031 Idaho Ave. Grand Island, NE | (308) 390-4532 | juliebruns72@gmail.com

Education

University of Nebraska at Kearney

-Bachelor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education - GPA: 3.873 *Expected graduation May 2019*

Work Experience

Preschool Teaching Assistant

Peace Lutheran Preschool, Grand Island, Nebraska

June 2015 to Current (Summer)

- Instructed crafts and educational projects
- Supervised over recess and playtime
- Taught concepts and read stories

Host

Texas Roadhouse, Grand Island, Nebraska

June 2013 to August 2014

- Communicated with guests and other employees
- Operated computer screens and answered calls
- Maintained cleanliness of the restaurant and restrooms

Dance Teacher

YWCA School of Dance, Grand Island, NE

September 2011 to May 2014

- Determined music and costumes appropriate for certain age groups
- Composed choreography suitable for a variety of experience
- Demonstrated and instructed choreography small steps at a time

Activities

Undergraduate Research Fellows

Spring 2016 to Current

- Continuing research in the teachings on sign language to infants

Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society

Spring 2016 to Current

- Society for high academic Education majors

Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society

Spring 2015 to Current

- Society based on GPA and the desire to volunteer within the community

Thompson Scholars

- **Peer Academic Leader**

Fall 2014 to 2015

- Plans information and teaching materials
- Grades homework assignments and papers
- Assists in teaching classes to college freshmen

Pride of the Plains Marching Band

Fall 2014 to Current

- **Color Guard Co-Captain**

- Leads section in routines and warm-ups
- Assists with demonstrating moves and routines
- Encourages positive attitudes in other members

Elementary Educators Club

- **Secretary**

Fall 2014 to Current

- Records the minutes at each meeting
- Sends out emails and reminders to the entire group

Tau Beta Sigma

Chapter Involvement

- **Vice President/Membership Committee Chair** *Fall 2016 to Current*
 - Planned and hosted rush week in fall and spring
 - Taught membership classes for new members
 - Encourages retention of organization information and history
- **Historian** *Fall 2015 to Spring 2016*
 - Captured pictures of our chapter and our events
 - Created posters to display in the Fine Arts Building
 - Designed and made the chapter scrapbook and display board
- **Sisterhood and Spirit Committee Chair** *Fall 2014 to Spring 2016*
 - Planned sisterhood events
 - Promoted high morale and sisterly bonding

District Involvement

- **Midwest District Advisory Council** *Fall 2015-Spring 2016*
 - Represented chapter with discussions each month
 - Interacted with District Council and District Counselors
- **District Days Attended**
 - Wayne, Nebraska *Fall 2015*
 - Kearney, Nebraska *Fall 2017*
 - Golden, Colorado *Spring 2018*
- **District Conventions Attended**
 - Minneapolis, Minnesota *Spring 2015*
 - Kearney, Nebraska *Spring 2016*
 - *Membership Committee*
 - Ames, Iowa *Spring 2017*
 - *Membership Committee*

National Involvement

- **National Conventions Attended**
 - Orlando, Florida *Summer 2017*
 - *Programs Committee*
 - *Proxy for Zeta Omega*

Awards Received

- **Theta Mu**
 - Sister of the Semester *Spring 2015*
- **Outstanding Academic Achievement** *Fall/Spring 2015, Fall 2016*
- **Top Chapter Scholar** *Fall 2017*
- **Adrienne Olin Rall Award for the Unsung Hero** *Spring 2017*

March 15, 2018

Dear Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Julie Bruns of the Theta Mu chapter, regarding the position of Midwest District Vice President of Membership. Julie and I first met four years ago, when we began our education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney as members of the Pride of the Plains Marching Band. Once I decided to start my journey as a sister of Tau Beta Sigma I had the opportunity to get to know her better. Then, as I became a more active member, our relationship deepened. As a result, it has been an honor serving together. Julie has been an outstanding sister having a positive impact on our chapter through her kindness, positive mindset and energetic personality. In fact, Julie has been very active and enthusiastic throughout her time in Theta Mu; as a new sister of the chapter she eagerly took on a leadership role as the Sisterhood Chair. Also, Julie has served on the Executive Board and held a Committee Chair every year since joining the organization. Furthermore, our chapter has had the privilege of having Julie serve as our Vice President and Membership Chair for the past two years. As a result of her dedication, she has been a wealth of knowledge and information regarding all things Tau Beta Sigma.

Not only has Julie been a leader for Theta Mu, but has also served the Marching Band as a Co-Captain of the Color Guard. In fact, I have had the pleasure of working alongside her as Co-Captain. Julie leads with a positive attitude, passion and a great love for the band. Julie is involved with a variety of other organizations on campus where she demonstrates her leadership and dedication to children. She was a Peer Mentor for Thompson Scholars during the 2016 -2017 school year. As the Secretary of the Elementary Educators Club, her primary function was to take notes, organize information and keep members abreast of pertinent information. All the skills Julie has gained through out these experiences will help her in the future of being an Early Education Teacher and her possible role of a District Officer.

Finally, I am confident that Julie Bruns strong integrity, character, and drive for excellence will make her an invaluable asset as the Midwest District Vice President of Membership. Thank you for considering this applicant for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sydni Ziemke".

Sydni Ziemke
Tau Beta Sigma-Theta Mu President
The University of Nebraska at Kearney
ziemkesp@lopers.unk.edu
(402) 430-9106

6 March 2018

To the Midwest District Council of Tau Beta Sigma:

Please accept this recommendation letter on behalf of Julie Bruns, an excellent candidate for the position of Vice President for Membership for the Midwest District. Julie is a student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, where she currently serves as Theta Mu Chapter Vice President/Membership Committee Chair for the sisters of Tau Beta Sigma and is a member of the UNK Symphonic Band and the *Pride of the Plains* Marching Band. Julie has previously served as Chapter Historian and Sisterhood and Spirit Committee Chair. She has also served as a member of the student leadership team for the *Pride of the Plains* Marching Band, as co-section leader for color guard the past two seasons.

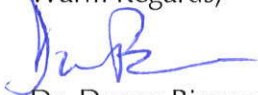
Julie has been active in Tau Beta Sigma at the District and National levels over the last few years. She has previously served on the Midwest District Advisory Council, and attended three District Days, three District Conventions, and one National Convention. She has garnered several awards during her time in Tau Beta Sigma, earning the Adrienne Olin Rall Award for the Unsung Hero, the Top Chapter Scholar, the Outstanding Academic Achievement, and the Theta Mu Sister of the Semester.

Julie is someone I can trust to show integrity, passion, respect, and kindness. She is an excellent communicator, and, as an education major, has developed the necessary skills to fulfill the requirements of the position as listed in the Bid Guidelines packet that is published online.

Julie excels at coordinating and collaborating all aspects of membership in our own Theta Mu Chapter. These skills enable her to be a successful Vice President/Membership Committee Chair at that level, and it is evident to me that she would be able to take her strengths to the District level with professionalism and facility. Julie not only excels at the skills needed to fulfill the duties of Vice President for Membership, it is obvious to me that she truly enjoys the challenges and rewards of such types of work.

I recommend Julie Bruns for this position without hesitation. Her leadership skills are well respected both in the Theta Mu Chapter as well as in the band program as a whole.

Warm Regards,



Dr. Duane Bierman
Chapter Sponsor, Theta Mu (Tau Beta Sigma) and Iota Psi (Kappa Kappa Psi)
Director of Bands
Associate Professor of Music
University of Nebraska at Kearney
308.865.8607
biermanda@unk.edu

February 15, 2018
Tau Beta Sigma
Selection Committee for Midwest District Officers

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brian Alber and I currently serve as the Assistant Director of Bands at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Julie Bruns as a candidate for District Vice President of Membership. I have known Julie for four years, as a member of the UNK Pride of the Plains Marching Band and Symphonic Band. In these capacities, I have had the privilege of working with a wonderfully bright, hardworking, and dedicated student.

Julie's strong work ethic is one of her most apparent qualities. She has consistently sought out leadership opportunities, whether through Tau Beta Sigma or the UNK marching band, where she has served as color guard section leader. She is a diligent student, able to expertly balance the many demands of her Elementary Education studies and other band activities. She is one of the most positive students I have worked with. She consistently comes to every rehearsal striving for the best and this positivity resonates with other members. In each of the various organizations with which she is involved, Julie consistently brings a balanced approach, passionately pursuing the goals of the organization, while constantly building positive relationships with others. She is truly a team player, valuing every member as vital to the organization.

Along with Julie's strong cooperative skills, she has been a wonderfully devoted member of the Theta Mu chapter. She has consistently fostered relationships with new members, actively recruited other students with strong potential in the organization, and represented the chapter with the utmost integrity. She is consistently viewed as a model leader in our chapter.

I can confidently state that Julie would be an outstanding candidate for District Vice President of Membership. She upholds the highest qualities of sisterhood and would bring these qualities to further the mission of Tau Beta Sigma at the District level. Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Alber D.A.
Assistant Director of Bands
University of Nebraska at Kearney