



## **STUDENT LEADERS FROM 19 FRATERNITIES COMPLETE FUTURES QUEST**

**INDIANAPOLIS (1/14/10)** – Nearly 60 men from 19 NIC-member fraternities participated in the December, 2009, and January, 2010, Futures Quest programs, a leadership experience that helps each participant answer the question “What does it mean to be a fraternity man?”

A three-day program for men who have been fraternity members for less than one year, Futures Quest participants identify personal strengths and challenges, develop leadership and communication skills, explore personal values and strength of conviction, and make a commitment to fraternal ideals. All met and interacted with a select group who arrived for the expedition as strangers and left as interfraternal brothers with a plan for their future. Men from 37 colleges and universities participated in this winter’s programs.

Futures Quest targets select new members of North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) fraternities. Each must possess a strong desire to learn about himself, be committed to his fraternal values and be an active participant throughout the Quest – an intensive living-learning experience, with programs starting early in the morning and stretching well into the evenings.

Together, participants are exposed to new ideas and possibilities, and each is encouraged to apply what he learns to his future fraternal experience. Each learns how his personal and fraternal values mesh, stretches his boundaries by considering others’ values, discovers his strengths through mentoring and personal reflection, and visualizes successful outcomes for his fraternity through the culminating experience of developing his action flag.

Each participant is guided through the Quest by a mentor, an undergraduate fraternity or sorority leader who shares their knowledge and offers guidance throughout the program. The relationship developed between the participant and mentor is designed to be lasting. Fifteen mentors from 11 different fraternities and sororities participated in this year’s program.

With a 1:4 leader-to-participant ratio, the program also engages NIC staff and long-time fraternal leaders such as Jon Williamson, Jonathan Brant, David Westol, and Bob Marchesani, among others.

Futures Quest takes place outdoors and is hosted by the NIC two times a year. The wooded Central Indiana retreat site offers modern facilities for the participants’ learning, recreation and lodging. A high ropes course, with challenges symbolic of the personal and group aspects of leadership, is a central part of the weekend curriculum that includes a nightwalk, case studies and problem-solving activities, time for reflection and contemplation, education sessions, and the creation of an action flag that guides their plans for future success.

Futures Quest is one of four NIC programs supporting the development of individual fraternity members, campus-based Interfraternity Councils and campus fraternity/sorority communities.

Founded in 1909, the NIC, through advocacy, collaboration and education, works to ensure that fraternities can operate in an environment conducive to their success.