



Smithhisler To Receive AFA Top Honor

INDIANAPOLIS (10/9/09) -- The Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA) has announced that Peter D. Smithhisler, president and CEO of the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), will receive the Jack L. Anson Award, an honor it presents annually "to a well-respected individual not in the field of higher education, who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the fraternity/sorority community beyond just his/her respective organization." The criteria for the award recipient is that s/he "assists in developing partnerships with higher education and the interfraternal community, fosters positive change to advance the fraternal movement, and has served as a role model for students."

"During his many years of service to the NIC, Pete has continued to be an advocate for campus-based fraternity and sorority advisors and for the NIC's partnership with AFA. At his core, Pete values and believes in 'fraternity' in its purest form and works everyday to move other invested people and organizations in that direction." said Carolyn Whittier, president of the AFA Board of Directors and associate director of programs and educational services at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"Pete's significant contributions to the UIFI program infused the curriculum with conversations about values-based experiences and building men and women of character and good judgment, changing it from 'Greek Camp' to 'character camp,'" she said. "I think that Pete coined the phrase 'cool caps,' and he uses his unique sense of humor to connect with undergraduate students and alumni volunteers alike."

Smithhisler's experience in government, with higher education partners, and within the industry makes him one of the nation's foremost advocates for the fraternal movement. He joined the NIC staff in 1998 as director of leadership programs, and in his 11 years with the 100-year-old international trade organization he has been promoted to vice president for leadership education and then to vice president for media and community relations. He was named president and CEO in 2007 and today is responsible for representing the interests of fraternal organizations, managing the Coalition Assessment Project, and coordinating daily interactions with the NIC's 73 member organizations, five million alumni, and 800 campuses.

"I am humbled by the recognition and honored to receive the award," Smithhisler said. "I do this work because I am passionate about advancing the fraternal movement. I believe that fraternities and sororities are the premiere leadership experience on college campuses today."

Smithhisler and his wife, Christina, reside in Zionsville, Ind., with their two daughters. He is active in community and church organizations and is an ongoing advocate for St Jude Children's Hospital.

The Jack L. Anson Award was established in 1982 in honor of the retiring executive director of the National Interfraternity Conference. Among the more than 25 recipients who have contributed greatly to the fraternity and sorority movement over the last quarter-century are industry luminaries Jonathan Brant, Hon. Edward Pease and George Spaysk, among many others.

The award will be presented December 9 in Jacksonville, Fla., at the awards banquet that concludes the four-day AFA Annual Meeting.

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