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## **ALPHA EPSILON PHI ANNOUNCES INCLUSIVE TRANSGENDER MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

DANBURY, Connecticut, June 28, 2017 – The National Council of Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority announced the organization’s inclusive policy on transgender membership at the sorority’s national convention in Norfolk, Virginia, last week.

### Alpha Epsilon Phi Transgender Membership Policy:

As stated in the Constitution of Alpha Epsilon Phi, individual membership shall be limited to women. A woman, for the purposes of our laws, and our organization, is any individual who at the time of both her pledging and initiation, self identifies as a woman, regardless of her assigned sex at birth. Any such individual should be considered on an equal basis with all other potential new members for membership in Alpha Epsilon Phi. This policy is intended to uphold the mission of Alpha Epsilon Phi as a women’s organization.

National President Debbie Friedman announced the policy during a session led by Stevie Tran and Nathan Arrowsmith, noted experts in the field of fraternities/sororities and transgender issues. Friedman explained that the Council had been working on a policy for several years and stated, “We acknowledge that we don’t have every answer but we believe it’s necessary to take this first step.” The assembled body of collegians and alumnae responded to this historic announcement with a spontaneous standing ovation.

A task force will address further education of members as well as the next steps. The organization will be addressing issues including members who transition once initiated as well as housing.

Alpha Epsilon Phi values inclusion and the National Council enacted this policy to make clear that Alpha Epsilon Phi welcomes all women, regardless of their sex assigned at birth.

### About Alpha Epsilon Phi:

Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority's mission is to inspire and support exemplary women dedicated to friendship and a lifelong commitment to the organization while building on the vision of its Jewish founders.