

Change Over Time

The International Educational Excellence Committee (EEC) was established in 2010. The International Program of Work and Educational Services committees were consolidated in the revision of the Constitution due to overlapping responsibilities, as well as the inability to fill committee positions. International incorporated the responsibilities of the committees into this new committee of educational excellence. State chapters were not required to adopt the new committee initially but were required to fulfill the responsibilities as stated in the Constitution and International Standing Rules.

In 2012, the [role of International EEC](#) was firmly established to encourage programs and activities that furthered education worldwide. Specific goals were set to promote the Schools for Africa Program, support Early-career Educators Project, and encourage programs and activities that increased member's personal and professional pride. Additional goals focused on promoting the DKG/UN relationship thus increasing member's global awareness, impacting educational law and policy, and advancing excellence in education. State organizations and chapters continued to be responsible to International for the work of the EEC. It was understood that chapters or state organizations could use whatever committee structure worked the best for them.

At the State Convention in 2012, Sigma State Wisconsin (SSW) adopted International EEC with a slightly narrower focus. With the International EEC goals in mind as well as the seven Purposes, Roberta Gale and Sandra Fuller worked with others to set goals for SSW while familiarizing State members with this new committee and meeting required deadlines. Their specific goals were to create an email list of all chapter EEC chairs and a place for chapter members to share program ideas, provide examples of SSW chapter program books, send SSW program ideas to chapter chairs, create EEC buttons for volunteers to use in schools, and visit six chapters to promote programs and ideas.

During the 2013-2015 biennium, while Susan Grosse was SSW president, a study committee led by Marcia Trentlage, investigated the by-laws of International EEC to suggest the potential design of the committee structure in Wisconsin. She learned International EEC had two projects, Schools for Africa and Supporting Early-career Educators. When changes are made, President Grosse understood there would be a two-part organizational structure-society business and society program of work. In 2015, SSW adopted the EEC structure. The new committee chose three areas of emphasis for Sigma State Wisconsin members to work toward; mirroring the international guidelines.

During the 2015-17 biennium, the International EEC established specific goals to develop programs, projects, and activities which empower women through leadership opportunities, promote educational excellence through programs and projects, and change global awareness through collaboration worldwide. The committee shared examples of work in all three areas in the ["Collection of Program Project and Activity Ideas for EEC"](#).

At this time Marilyn Lambert was Sigma President. She outlined the major focus areas of her term and worked with Leslie Bakkum and Bev Mantey-VanCronkhite to develop the goals, action steps, committees, and evaluation timelines that became the Sigma State Wisconsin Strategic Action Plan (SAP). Leslie Bakkum implemented and facilitated the strategic plan utilizing the S.M.A.R.T. Goal Format breaking the long-term outcome goals into specific behavior goals while working with committee chairs.

The S.M.A.R.T. goal of creating a working EEC was set along with action steps, members, and evaluation dates. With Marcia Trentlage as chair, an EEC workshop was planned and carried out to acquaint chapters with the new committee structure. To accomplish this goal, the committee chose to provide chapters with a personal cloud storage place, called Dropbox, to share program files. The State committee modeled the process of sharing in a demonstration introducing a project and placing the documents in Dropbox thus sharing them with members. In addition, the committee challenged each chapter to choose a topic based on the article *Educational Excellence* in the [Alpha Gamma State News](#) written by Kathy Zwanzig, and develop, present, and share it with other Wisconsin chapters using Dropbox.com.

EEC members continued to explain the new structure adopted by SSW and DKG International and demonstrate the EEC role as evidenced in the December 2017 article in [Sigma State News](#). They also created a presentation display for use at SSW meetings and conventions which defined the role of the committee.

A questionnaire, asking chapter presidents whether their chapters had changed their committee structure to fit the new structure aligning with SSW, was offered at the state convention in order to determine progress made on the S.M.A.R.T Goals. At the close of the biennium, annual reports were submitted by the committee reviewing 2015-17 EEC SAP Goals and outlining future projects.

The EEC continued the S.M.A.R.T. Goal format for the 2017-2019 biennium with President Leslie Bakkum's guidance. Marcia Trentlage continued as the committee chair and S.M.A.R.T. goals were set.

The following [goals](#) (page 9) were continued for the 2017-2019 biennium:

- 1. Before June 30, 2019, members of the Educational Excellence committee will communicate directly with every chapter in Sigma State Wisconsin to provide resources for chapter programming and to address questions or concerns related to their focus area.*
- 2. Before June 30, 2019, all appointed Sigma State Wisconsin standing committees will include a chair and a committee member being mentored to become the next chair. Committee membership will reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of Sigma State Wisconsin.*

The EEC Committee worked to reinforce the goals outlined by the SSW and acquaint members with International EEC initiatives in order to ease the transition from multiple committees to one, EEC. They shared information with chapter presidents, planned a training workshop to introduce the three International focus areas to members, explained STEM initiatives in Wisconsin, and practiced accessing information on the International website. The committee also created a Wisconsin SSW EEC website which linked directly to resources valuable for members use when planning purposeful programs and projects.

As SSW EEC members looked back, they identified important [progress](#) (page 10) made in communicating with State chapters and providing resources for programming. Most local chapters in Wisconsin had an Educational Excellence Committee and the present committee chair has been mentoring the next chair. In addition, the committee introduced a method for

analyzing and evaluating chapter programming, encouraged global awareness, and empowered women through their programming to take leadership roles.

The insight and dedication of the women who served on the Educational Excellence Committee have created a strong foundation for women of the 21st Century to “Empower, Engage, and Encourage” others. Their [CHEER](#) has been realized!

During the 2019-2021 biennium, President Mary Kenne will lay out the focus areas of her term and the EEC will work diligently supporting International and State goals with the same passion as former women leaders of the Wisconsin State Organization have demonstrated.

Writing this document was more difficult than I thought it would be and more rewarding than I could have ever imagined. A very special thank you to Marcia Trentlage, Marilyn Lambert, Roberta Gale, and Leslie Bakkum for providing the sources of information that made it possible to write it as well as Margaret Bussone and Heather Thomas-Flores for editing it. This article would not have been possible without their support.

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