

# CELEBRATING & RECOGNIZING

## MEMBERS + GRADUATING STUDENTS

*Many organizations take time at the end of the academic year to celebrate the accomplishments of the organization, individual members and especially graduating members. If you had to cancel an event or celebration, you might be feeling stuck on how to do this, but we'd love to help!*

*People may be feeling isolated or disconnected, and we encourage you to take this opportunity to connect to the positive, celebratory nature of the end of the year - even if it feels very different.*

## 7 Ideas for how to recognize members during times of social distancing.



WAY  
TO GO!

1

### **COMPILE A SENIOR SHOUT OUTS VIDEO TO SHARE WITH GRADUATING MEMBERS**

Include videos of members talking about graduating members and pictures of the organization doing activities together from earlier in the year or in past years.



2

## SET UP AN “APPRECIATION BUDDY” SYSTEM WITH YOUNGER MEMBERS

The younger member can write a meaningful handwritten note, make a digital collage, or send the graduating student a care package with their favorite snacks. A great option for smaller, more intimate organizations to offer a more personalized recognition.



3

## WORK WITH PEOPLE THE GRADUATING STUDENTS IS CURRENTLY HOME WITH, INCLUDING ROOMMATES OR FAMILY MEMBERS TO CREATE A SURPRISE DEDICATED FROM THE ORGANIZATION

This could involve having someone make their favorite meal or decorate their door.



4

## START PLANNING AN APPRECIATION EVENT FOR THE FALL OR NEXT YEAR

Choose a time you typically see alumni return to Blacksburg such as football games, reunions, or large organization events like concerts or showcases.

5

## CONTINUE ENGAGING RETURNING AND GRADUATING MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE LAST WEEKS OF CLASSES

Help graduating students stay connected to why they joined your group. This can be through weekly zoom dinners, virtual workouts, celebrating birthdays or other holidays virtually.



6

## UTILIZE SOCIAL MEDIA TO DO “SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS”

Include pictures of the graduating student doing organization activities with their fellow members and write a caption that recognizes their unique contributions to the organization.



7

## HOST A VIRTUAL BANQUET FOR ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND

Set up a time where everyone can participate in recognizing the graduating students, make paper plate awards with funny or meaningful superlatives, and enjoy the opportunity to spend time together, even if it's virtual.