



MEDIA RELEASE

Grand Canyon University Team Takes First Place for Interdisciplinary Student Research

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Alpha Chi National College Honor Society is proud to announce that a team of member student researchers from its **Arizona Alpha chapter at Grand Canyon University** has won the 2026 Trisha M. Yarbrough Collaborative Research Competition for their project entitled, **“Reimagining the Impossible: Leadership Inside Out.”**

Arizona Alpha’s interdisciplinary student team was **Judah Floyd**, a junior public accounting major; **Luke Lascurain**, a senior studying supply chain and risk management; and **Mishayla Varner**, a senior psychology major. The \$5,000 first place prize will be distributed to these three student team members. Alpha Chi would also like to acknowledge Drs. Breanna Naegeli and Marette Hahn of GCU who mentored the team.

The team’s research focused on the relationship between perceived student leader effectiveness and student-reported academic, social, and spiritual well-being. They also explored whether students’ well-being differed across residence halls. The judges noted that the team provided a model for research that they would love to see replicated on their own campuses. They appreciated the emphasis on collaboration, which was grounded in a clear and thoughtful methodology, saying “The project’s strong design and discoveries reveal the magic that is happening in our Alpha Chi chapters across the country, and the students are to be commended on creating such a well-designed presentation.”

This annual competition is one way Alpha Chi actively promotes interdisciplinary undergraduate research designed to focus on real-world solutions. It was judged by a multidisciplinary panel of professors who assessed three collegiate teams submitting a written research paper, a poster, and culminating with a live national convention presentation followed by questions from both judges and audience members.

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About Alpha Chi

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society invites to membership juniors, seniors, and graduate students from all disciplines in the top ten percent of their classes at its member institutions. Chartered on more than 300 campuses nationwide, chapters induct approximately 8,000 students annually. Since the Society’s founding in 1922, Alpha Chi members, charged with upholding the tenets of Truth and Character, have dedicated themselves to “making scholarship effective for good.” Alpha Chi is a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies.