

Blanche's Charge for the
Hazing Work Group
1.23.15

Thank you for being part of this very important work group. I am sorry I can't be with you to give this charge in person. This committee is about student success, student safety, and student well-being. I'm asking you all to come together to address the issue of hazing in a comprehensive and collaborative way. I believe we cannot meet the University's mission until we're honest with ourselves and one another and then work to shift the culture away from looking the other way or tolerating hazing. It begins with an understanding of the definition of hazing and an assessment of the costs and impacts of hazing. There is a ripple effect that goes beyond significant negative impacts on students' lives and includes institutional reputation, legal liability, and financial loss. This is a retention issue that cannot be ignored. I've invited each of you to be a part of this work group because hazing is a phenomenon that crosses multiple dimensions of students' lives and involvement. One last thing, I'm asking you to change culture, not create new policies. I understand this won't be easy or fast, but I do believe this talented group of people can make significant progress on shifting the culture related to eliminating hazing at Colorado State University. I look forward to receiving regular updates on your progress and seeing an implementation plan within this semester.

Thank you,

Blanche