



Secure/ Higher Ed Brother<sup>2</sup>Brother™ Training

## Acacia Fraternity PAC-12 Summit Post Training Report



**ACACIA**



Secure/ Higher Ed ("S/HE") conducted a Brother 2 Brother ("B<sup>2</sup>B") training at Acacia Fraternity's PAC-12 Leadership Conference at Oregon State University in May 2016. S/HE designed B<sup>2</sup>B with the purposes of (1) keeping young men safe from sexual/relationship violence; (2) providing good men with the tools they need to help prevent sexual/relationship violence; and (3) providing young men with information that they will deem, important, useful and relevant to them, even if that information is not directly related to sexual assault.

Consistent with these purposes, the training was divided into four segments: (1) how people in America achieve financial freedom; (2) common traits of happy people; (3) answering the most common questions young men have about relationships; and (4) courage and cowardice. The first two segments did not mention sex or sexual assault, but laid out important concepts that would powerfully reinforce the later messages concerning consent and sexual assault.

In between each segment, the brothers performed team building exercises developed by the Russian Spetsnaz. The exercises emphasize an important concept: that if one member fails, the group fails, and by helping a brother do things right, every brother becomes stronger.

The final two segments, in a mentoring and supportive fashion, incorporated content concerning consent, illegal sexual and dating behavior, bystander education, protecting the weak, and other important concepts. According to the executive director of Acacia Fraternity, "The program enhanced the bonds of brotherhood and fraternity and *inspired specific actions* on the part of our brothers to reduce sexual violence on their campuses."

While the nature of the assignment from Acacia made individual surveys impossible, the Executive Director summed up the training as follows:

It was clear that the program was based on extensive research on sexual assault, what messages resonate with young men, and what pedagogical techniques can most effectively deliver that message. This type of evidence-based approach is vastly superior to programs that largely consist of opinions, speculation, or political viewpoints. *Our fraternity has reviewed many sexual assault programs, and this program was far and away the best we have seen.* It is the most relevant to young men, the most engaging, the most thoughtful, and the most effective in providing good men with the tools they need to be better.