

# Our Twenty-Year Journey in Aspirations Headlines

**1995** CHARTER MEMBERSHIP EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS; 61 CHARTER CHAPTERS INSTALLED

**1996** SIGMA BETA DELTA MOVING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

**1997** SIGMA BETA DELTA TRANSFORMS STUDENTS INTO MENTORS

**1998** PURPOSE OF HONOR SOCIETIES

**1999** AIR FORCE ACADEMY ENLISTS SBD

**2000** THE EXCELLENCE OF JOHN GARDNER

**2001** PROFILES OF HONOR

**2002** Questions of Ethics

**2003** SBD Membership: Serving Society

**2004** For 227 Colleges and Universities and 30,164 of their Best and Brightest Business Students SBA's First Decade Made a Difference

**2005** SBA: Why and How?

**2006** Philadelphia, We Have a Triennial!

**2007** Lessons in Leadership

**2008** Crossing the 300th Chapter Threshold REMINISCENCES AND REFLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**2009** Sigma Beta Delta Connected

**2010** SBD and Mary Baldwin College A Double Celebration

**2011** The Leadership Academy: A Small Step for Humankind

**2012** The Power of One—an Organ Donor



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University  
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St. Petersburg, FL



**Linda Miller**  
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# ASPIRATIONS

ALWAYS ASPIRE TOWARD SOMETHING BETTER

## How Many Significant Figures Are In 400?

All organizations have many significant and important figures and events during their existence. But some occasions stand out as extraordinary, even worthy of the description as a landmark event. Such was the case when Sigma Beta Delta officers traveled to Rockford University on November 14, 2013, to install and celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> chapter of Sigma Beta Delta.

They traveled to Rockford, Illinois, as part of a responsibility to remain faithful to the view that gave rise to Sigma Beta Delta's founding. The founding vision was that institutions providing quality instruction to collegiate business students should be afforded an opportunity to have an honor society with national standing to recognize their high performing students.

That tradition dates to the founding of our nation, and the organization first providing that recognition for collegiate students was Phi Beta Kappa. A special pleasure at Rockford University was being able to celebrate a Sigma Beta Delta chapter installation at an institution that hosts a chapter of that oldest partner in the honor society community.

While much change within and about the education in business environment has occurred, one constant remains and that is the need to encourage and recognize the best and brightest among our students enrolled in business and management programs. The Rockford University Sigma Beta Delta installation was particularly important because a significant threshold was being crossed in the life of Sigma Beta Delta. It would be the installation of chapter number four hundred. It was almost twenty years ago when the initial chapter of Sigma Beta

Delta was created at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Since then chapters have been installed at hundreds of institutions in this country and abroad. The particularly meaningful and momentous installation at Rockford University was the fact that the installation was number 400. Those participating in observing such a momentous event might wonder or ask: How many significant figures might there be in this number 400?

And one might certainly conclude that each figure in this number 400 is likely to be significant. Then what is the correct answer to the question posed in the headline of this piece: How many significant figures are in the number 400?

The mathematician reading this and answering the question will give what may be a most surprising, but mathematically correct, answer: There is only one significant figure in 400. Their definition is correct mathematically because it is "the number of figures that add quality to the value." But our non-mathematically precise and technical definition is that there will be many significant figures in our chapter number 400--not just now, but certainly for many years to come. We can probably conclude correctly that now and in the future there will be many significant individuals and groups in our society resulting from what occurred at our number 400 chapter installation at Rockford University on the evening of November 14, 2013.

It is with much pride and positive anticipation that we look forward to the continued growth of Sigma Beta Delta in higher education for business in this country and abroad, and we are pleased to welcome Rockford University as our 400th chapter.

Remarks by Sigma Beta Delta's founding president, Dr. James H. Bearden, at the installation of Rockford University's Sigma Beta Delta chapter on November 14, 2013.

One might wonder why Sigma Beta Delta's president, immediate past president, founding president, and executive director would travel here to Rockford, Illinois, to install your chapter. On most occasions there would probably be one installing officer. But the ceremony here tonight is one that deserves attention because it is a very special event.

You see, tonight we are celebrating the culmination of what has

been almost a twenty-year journey. In a few minutes Rockford University will become the 400<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Sigma Beta Delta honor society. For me, it has been a marvelous and exciting journey. It has taken me from Maine to Florida, from Texas to Colorado, on to California, and even to the United Arab Emirates. Each chartering ceremony has been important and significant in the life of our society. But tonight is a particular pleasure because we are crossing a threshold with special significance. A brief review leading to that conclusion is in order.

The Sigma Beta Delta idea was on the minds of academics involved in the honor community a long time ago. It appeared the first time on my radar back in 1968 when I attended my first Beta Gamma Sigma national

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