

Report of the City-County Alumni Association Committee

to the 78th National Convention of Alpha Rho Chi

Submitted March 27, 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Catherine Berry, Chair | Chicago, IL

Isidorus chapter, Isidorus alumni association (dormant), Hippodamus Alumni Association (dormant); former regional director (2014-2016), former advisor director (2016-2019), former Worthy Grand Scribe (2019-2023).

Tyler Atkins | Atlanta, GA

Metagenes Chapter, Metagenes Alumni Association, Polyidus Alumni Association; Vice President, Alpha Rho Chi Foundation

Moises Valcarcel Gonzalez | Providence, RI

Nicon Chapter

Maria Noguera | Boston, MA

Cleisthenes Chapter, Cleisthenes Alumni Association

Christy Paciocco | Atlanta, GA

Metagenes Chapter, Metagenes Alumni Association, Polyidus Alumni Association

Cesar Portillo | Boston, MA

Cleisthenes Chapter, Cleisthenes Alumni Association

Lori Beth Wilson

Rabirius Chapter

Thanks to Bryan Perez, Phil Buckberg, and Elize Ketz for their early contributions to the committee.

Introduction

The following motion established the committee at the 77th national convention.

Motion 77-06 reads: “Mr. President Recognizing the topic of this motion will likely trigger extensive discussion as it suggests a major change in how the organization operates, I move to form a committee of alumni tasked with investigating the feasibility, cost, and benefits of establishing city-wide or county-wide Alumni Associations, as opposed to maintaining chapter-specific Alumni Associations.”

The motion maker provided the following explanation (note that the explanation is not a directive, although the committee did take some of the recommendations actions):

To be clear, by making this motion, we are not suggesting that chapter-specific alumni “groups” be dissolved. Chapter-specific alumni “groups” can and should still exist to nurture natural connections and mentorship between collegiate and alumni APX members who have matriculated from their respective universities. These are unique relationships that can and should be maintained. Establishing city or county-wide associations can foster stronger connections among APX alumni who may have otherwise been disconnected due to geographic limitations that are inevitable, and an ongoing challenge, in the chapter-specific alumni association model. This change could create a larger, more dynamic network of alumni that spans multiple chapters. Reformatting the chapter-specific association model into a larger, more centralized city/county/regional network could also result in cost savings in shared administrative resources, events, and communication platforms. Furthermore, a city or county-wide alumni association has potential to have a more powerful collective voice, possibly leading to stronger advocacy, community engagement, and professional opportunities for alumni across the nation. Lastly, alumni who have moved to different cities or parts of the country would be more likely to stay engaged with the organization if they can participate in local events and initiatives. Contingent upon approval of this motion, Grand Council will need to openly solicit to form a committee of alumni who represent a cross-section of our membership, ensuring diverse perspectives on the potential benefits and challenges of creating city or county-wide associations. The committee will then gather data on existing chapter-specific alumni associations, including membership sizes, activity levels, and operational costs. They will also research successful models of city or county-wide member networks, both within and outside of our industry. This committee will need to evaluate the logistical feasibility of consolidating or creating city/county-wide alumni associations. A cost/benefit analysis, taking into consideration administrative costs, potential savings to the organization, and potential impacts on alumni engagement will be critical. Possible challenges, such as establishing a local identity, ensuring inclusive representation, and logistical hurdles of merging or restructuring associations should be considered as well. It’s highly recommended that a survey or focus groups be conducted to gather input from our alumni base across the nation [both active and non-active] to

understand their preferences, needs, and concerns regarding the potential restructuring of alumni associations. Once a deadline has been established, the committee will provide a report to Grand Council with findings, recommendations, and a proposed course of action, including timelines, estimated costs, and strategies for implementation, if the idea is pursued. Motions there after will be brought to the General Body for discussion and a vote at a future convention. Establishing a committee of alumni to lead this investigation will allow the membership to make an informed decision about the potential for city or county-wide Alumni Associations, ensuring that our alumni network remains vibrant, cost-effective, and impactful.

With no specific timeframe given, the committee decided to prepare a report for the 78th national convention to provide a summary of actions taken in the last year and continue engagement with the membership.

Actions Taken

The committee took the following actions this year:

- Establishment of monthly meetings for progress updates and discussion across all committee members
- Creation and distribution of online survey to the membership to inquire on existing habits and preferences of fraternity participation.
- Analysis of dues paying alumni from 2021 to 2025
- Analysis of Alumni Association financial summaries from 2016 to 2025
- Analysis of Grand Council reports of alumni expenditures
- Follow up discussions with alumni wanting to provide additional feedback from the survey

Analysis of dues paying alumni 2021-2025

- Alumni Dues by totals and geographies provided by Grand Council

Analysis of AA Financial Summaries 2016-2025

- Financial summaries of active Alumni Associations submitted to Grand Council

Analysis of GC reports of alumni expenditures

- Income GL 4046 Alumni Association Fees (to be ignored as this pays for insurance/database/etc.
- Income GL 4047 Alumni Dues
- Expense GL 5600 Alumni Development includes: Alumni directors meeting, alumni outreach/retention, programming, and travel to AA events.

Survey of Membership

- Google Forms survey created by committee and distributed to membership through Grand Council

Summary of Results

The committee finds more data collection is necessary to provide a comprehensive understanding of Alumni Associations and the alumni experience.

Themes, Pain Points, “Profiles” of common alumni traits

- Cost/benefit of dues paid to AAs and APX at large
- Comparison to other industry groups (AIA, NOMA, etc.) who employ paid staff
- Chicken-Egg debate around alumni dues and alumni programming
- Challenge of retaining driven volunteers, committed to building programming slowly (understanding that momentum cannot be generated in a single event).
- Alumni who care about fraternity operations vs. alumni seeking social networks
- Alumni with inactive chapters/AAs have no access to Greek Track

Recommendations / Calls to Action

Geography doesn't seem to be the problem. Need to zoom out — focus on alumni experience.

The majority of our alumni are in large cities, a trend of design firms in US. But still not a monolith. Every geography will need its own custom solution which should be additive to the existing solution in place.

Recommendations to the Convention

We recommend further study of the alumni experience by continuing a committee that expands surveying of the membership in order to collect more comprehensive data and provide recommendations to the membership on improving alumni engagement.

The data and recommendations shall be presented at the 79th national convention.

Recommendations to the Grand Council

The following notes are the committee's collection of thoughts on further outreach and discussion, stemming from the original survey that may provide additional insight into the current alumni experience.

- Alumni are not a "monolith"
 - There needs to be a greater focus on casual alumni
 - Generational divide, differing wants/needs based on life stage
 - Deprioritization of Alumni by the national fraternity being mislabeled as "apathy"
 - Can be jaded from bad experiences with national org, or home chapter as collegiates or alumni
- Staffing / Support / Comms
 - Alumni see APX not maintaining or communicating; no motivation to actively affiliate with an unpolished org. APX mark has less value, for example.
 - Volunteer management
 - Fight the RD or nothing stigma of volunteering
 - Ask for volunteers more often
 - Shorten terms of appointment?
 - Make tasks small enough to attract people for easy volunteering wins
 - WGAA checks in with all volunteers routinely to prevent isolation, and to understand relationship between volunteering and alumni experience
 - Update the volunteer form to focus on volunteer skills
 - Always respond to anyone who submits
 - Set clear, reasonable expectations;
 - Assign ADs to oversee regions (not the same as chapter regions); serve as liaison from local alumni as well as relevant AAs to GC; plan general alumni events in their region (maybe quarterly?). Plan enough events that people see it as a perk of membership/paying national dues
 - Inertia → long term planning, be prepared for things to take YEARS to get going.
 - Realistic goals, not moonshot.
 - Event code of conduct in addition to national code of conduct?
 - Clear, communicated, actionable steps to report concerns.
 - Example: <https://www.ite.org/incident-portal/>
 - GreekTrack adjustments - Alumni without active chapters and AAs need better access to GreekTrack, currently locked out of most communications. Recommend creating a more general "organization/chapter"
 - Alumni at large "AA" so everyone has access to information

- With expansion and rechartering efforts, we need to support the transition from chapter to alumni when AAs have not been established yet or are dormant so we don't lose these brothers after graduating (we know charter brothers usually burn out as alumni for holding so much on their shoulders through school and possibly also building their AA from scratch)
- Money
 - Alumni programming supposedly removed from budget in FY24. From the GC report "The budget as approved also removed almost all budget considerations for Alumni Programming." But 2025 GC report shows that money was spent in both 2024 and 2025? No ADs, so what was it spent on, the pins?

5 Year - Major Expenses					
Expense	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
GC Summer Meeting	\$ 1,828	\$ 4,727	\$ 6,242	\$ 5,935	\$ 8,069

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GC Winter Meeting	\$ -	\$ 432	\$ -	\$ 91	\$ -
Convention Business Session	\$ 999	\$ 10,671	\$ 317	\$ 5,704	\$ 691
RD Retreat	\$ -	\$ 8,603	\$ 9,244	\$ 8,249	\$ 6,865
Publications	\$ -	\$ 1,540	\$ -	\$ 2,009	\$ -
Administration & General	\$ 35,641	\$ 37,920	\$ 20,974	\$ 58,628	\$ -
Membership Services	\$ 13,164	\$ 17,115	\$ 10,583	\$ 22,615	\$ 7,714
Internet Services	\$ 3,140	\$ 7,426	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Formation Weekend	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,730	\$ 4,206
Chapter Installation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,177
Charter Team Meeting	\$ -	\$ 2,923	\$ 3,565	\$ 421	\$ 2,094
Ritual Workshops	\$ -	\$ 13,143	\$ 4,340	\$ -	\$ 3,389
Chapter Development	\$ 358	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 5,723	\$ 3,834
Alumni Development	\$ 2,628	\$ 3,496	\$ 700	\$ 3,484	\$ 2,835

- Free events for dues payers; at cost for non-dues payers.
- **Change the narrative.** Either it's Alumni support money for fraternity/chapter operations (which would not be tax deductible, likely) or you are paying dues and receive some kind of service in exchange.
 - If alumni dues support fraternity operations, like the website, and it's not maintained ... what's the value to alumni?

- From IRS 526 “Membership fees or dues. You may be able to deduct membership fees or dues you pay to a qualified organization. However, you can deduct only the amount that is more than the value of the benefits you receive.”
- Membership dues are considered an exchange transaction, meaning that your members pay dues, and in exchange, your association provides membership benefits.
https://www.asaecenter.org/resources/articles/an_plus/2025/10-october/revenue-recognition-for-membership-dues-four-best-practices
- <https://www.cheddarup.com/blog/membership-dues-for-nonprofits-best-practices/>

Recommendations to Alumni Associations

The committee recommends Alumni Associations to review the survey results and consider actively surveying their own members to collect information specific to their AA.

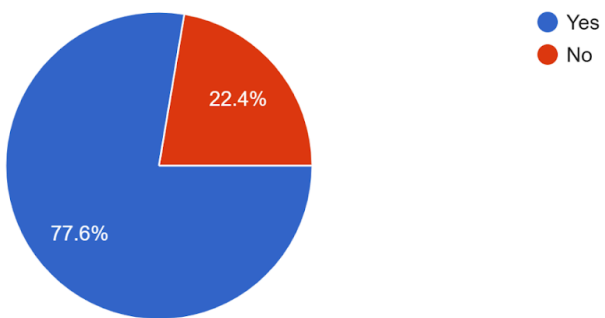
Recommendations to the Alumni Membership at Large

The committee recommends the membership at large continue to participate in the survey and reach out to the committee with feedback. Consider joining the committee!

Appendix 1 Survey Response Charts

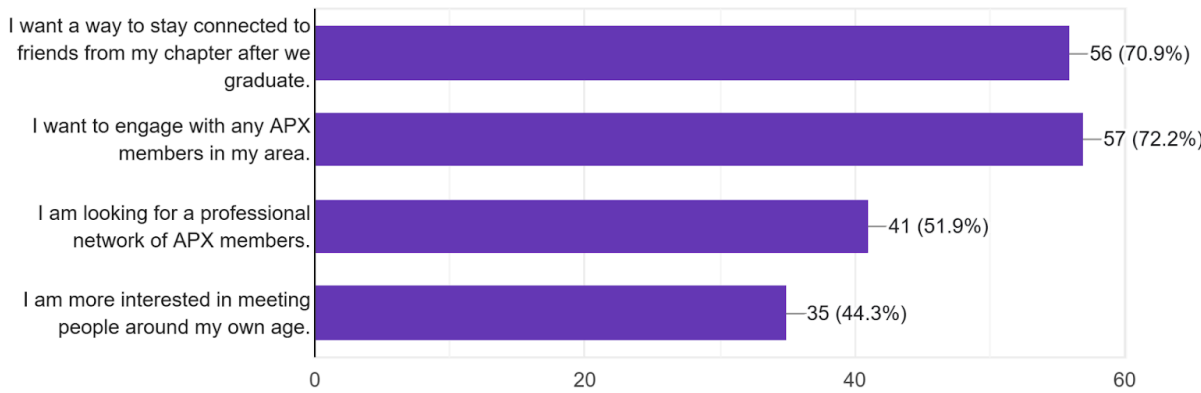
Were you ever a member of any APX Alumni Association?

85 responses



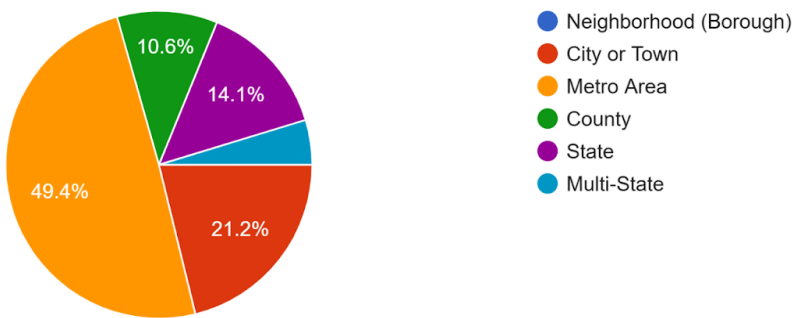
Which of these statements do you agree with

79 responses



How do you define your area?

85 responses

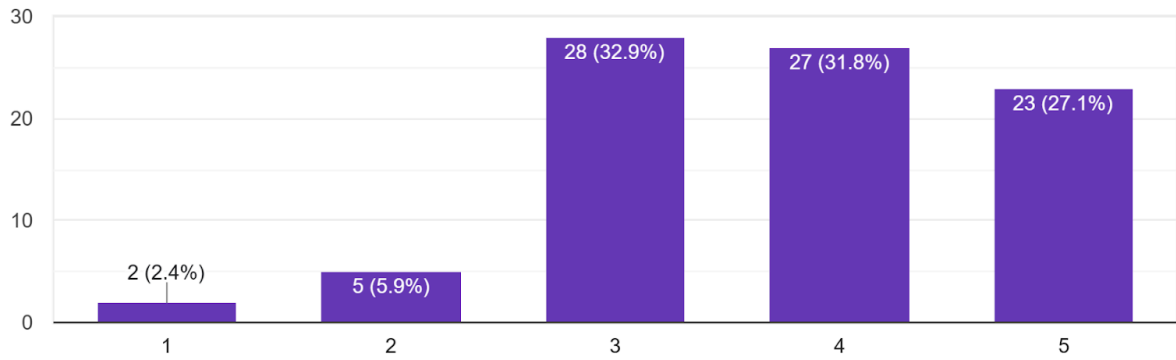


Appendix 1

Survey Response Charts

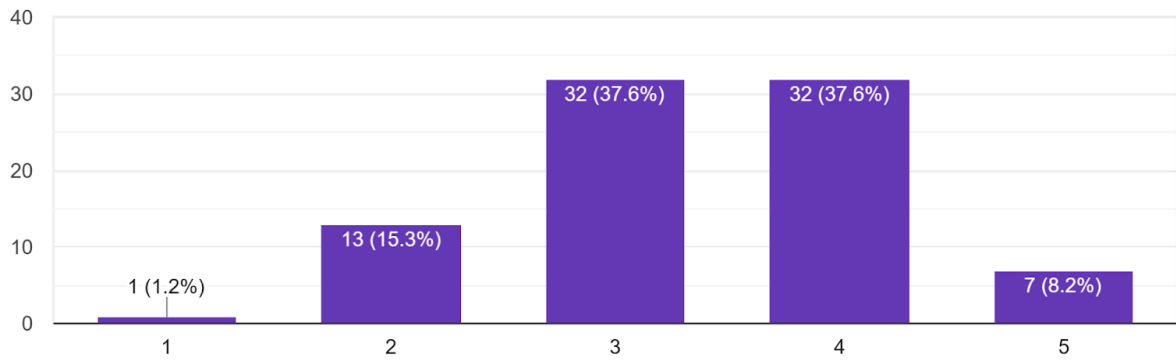
People I already know will be there

85 responses



I'll have the opportunity to meet new people

85 responses

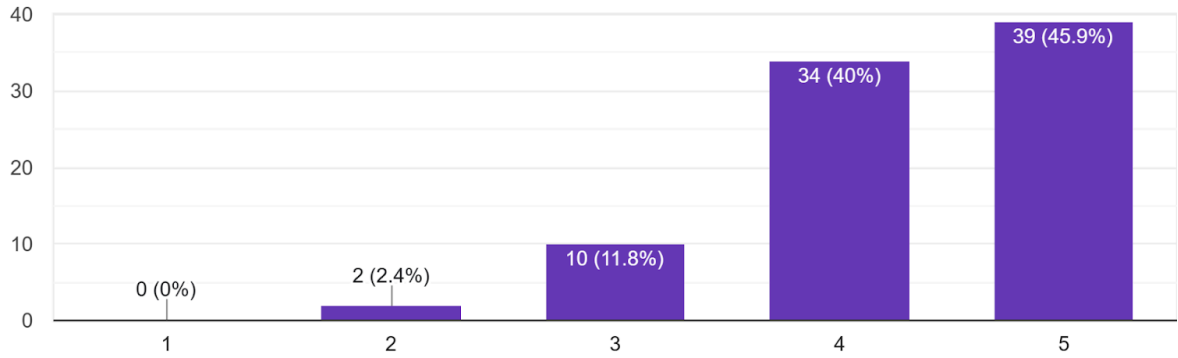


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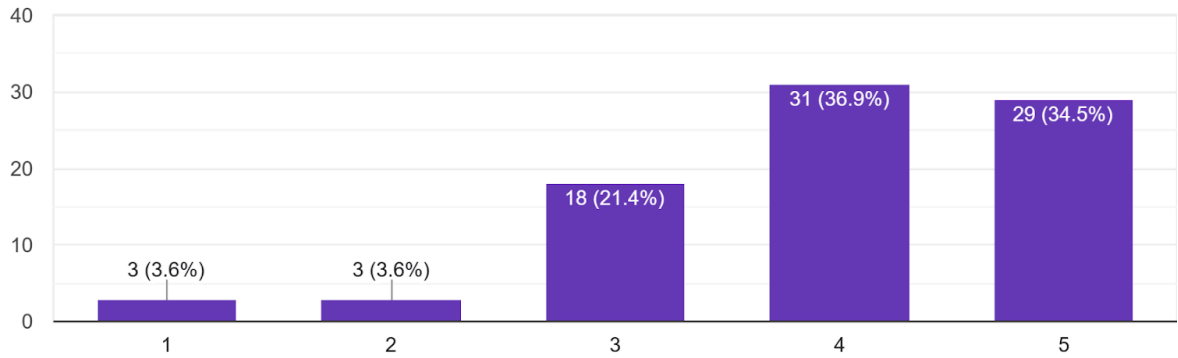
The event is easy to get to

85 responses



The event is affordable (includes cost of transit, parking, etc.)

84 responses

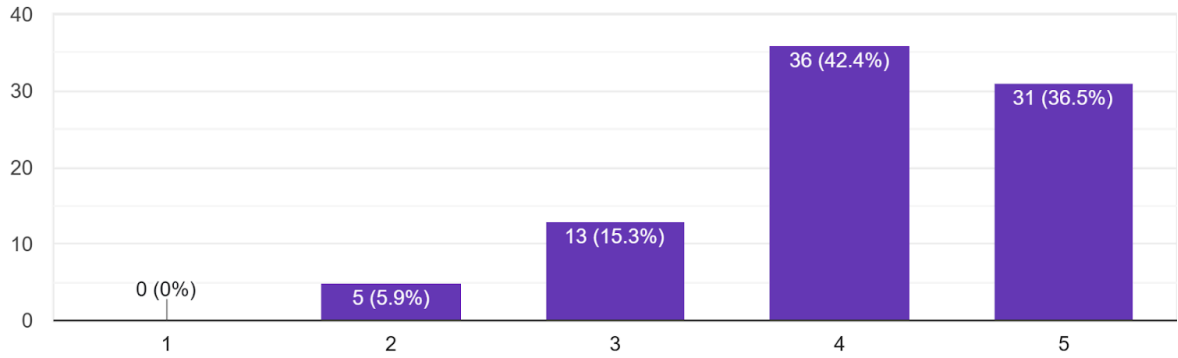


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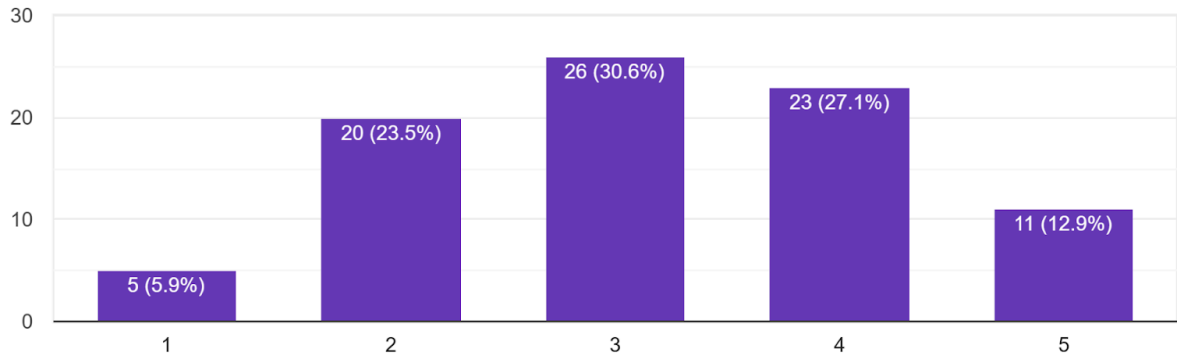
The event topic is fun, interesting, or beneficial to me

85 responses



The event is purpose-driven (philanthropic, mentoring others, etc.)

85 responses

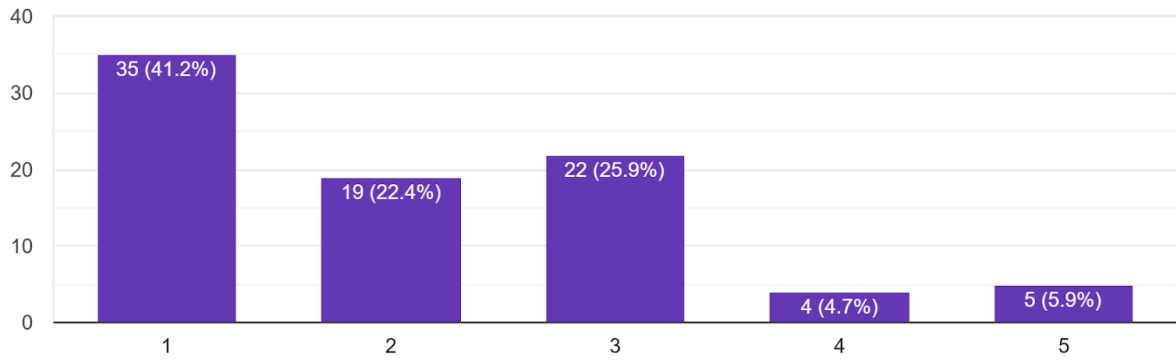


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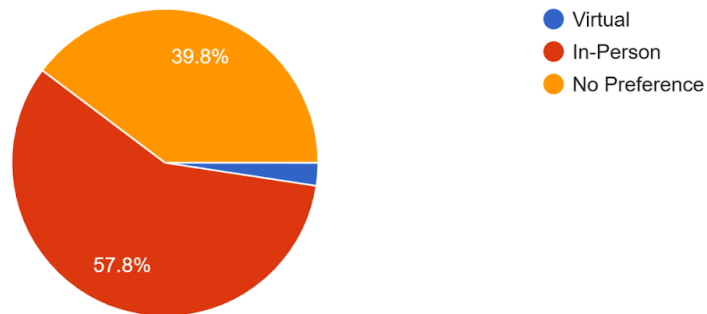
The event is family-friendly

85 responses



Do you have a preference in virtual or in-person Interactions?

83 responses

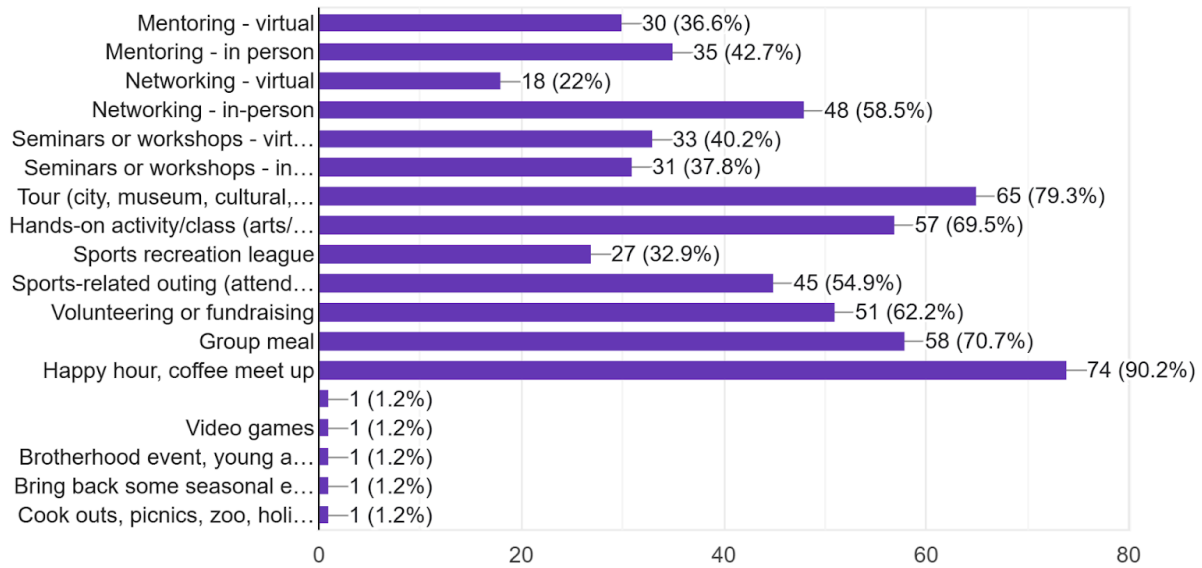


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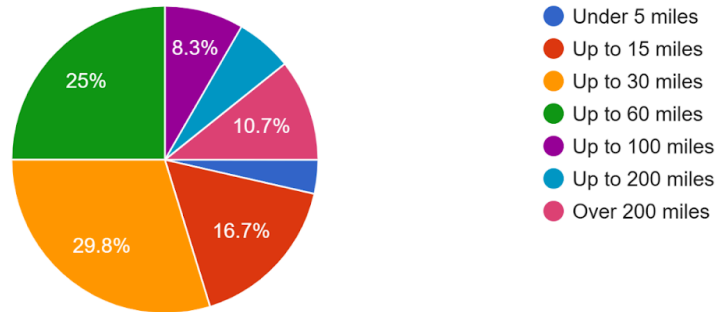
Check the types of events you're interested in

82 responses



All other factors aside, how far would you be willing to travel for an alumni event?

84 responses

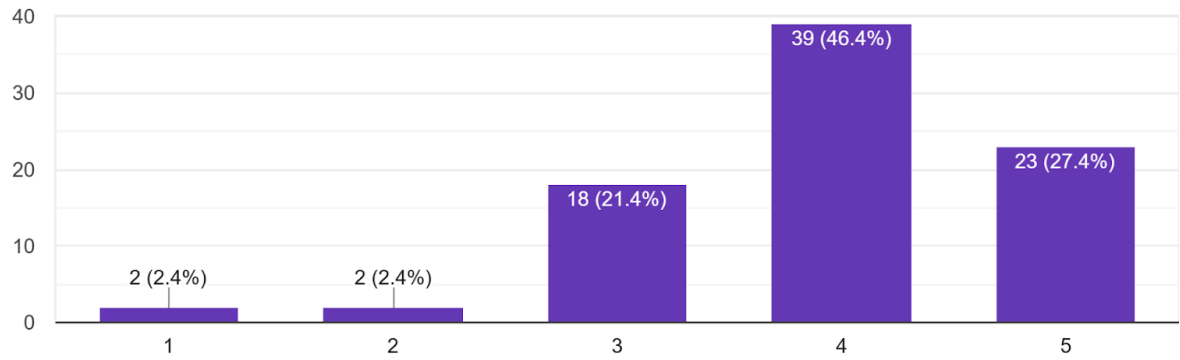


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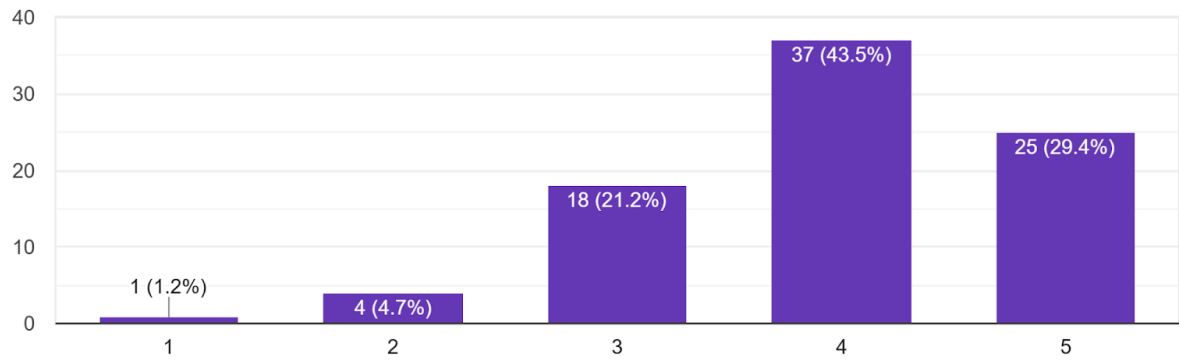
Professional development, mentorship and networking

84 responses



Furthering connection and Brotherhood

85 responses

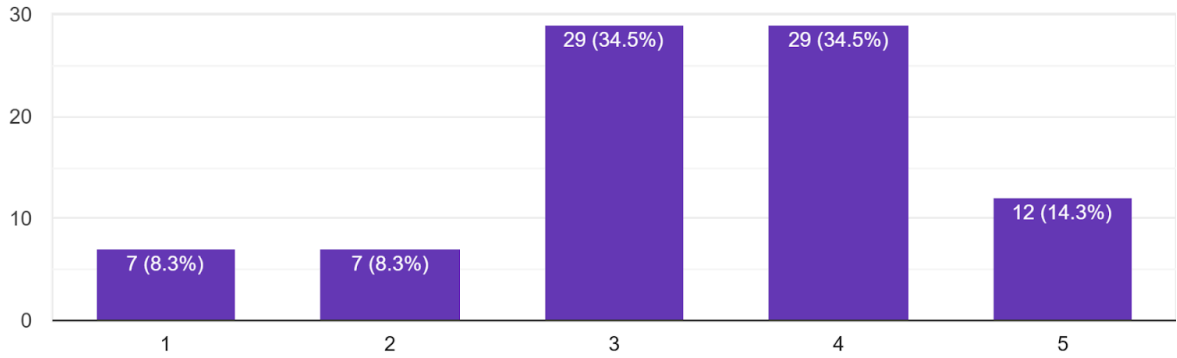


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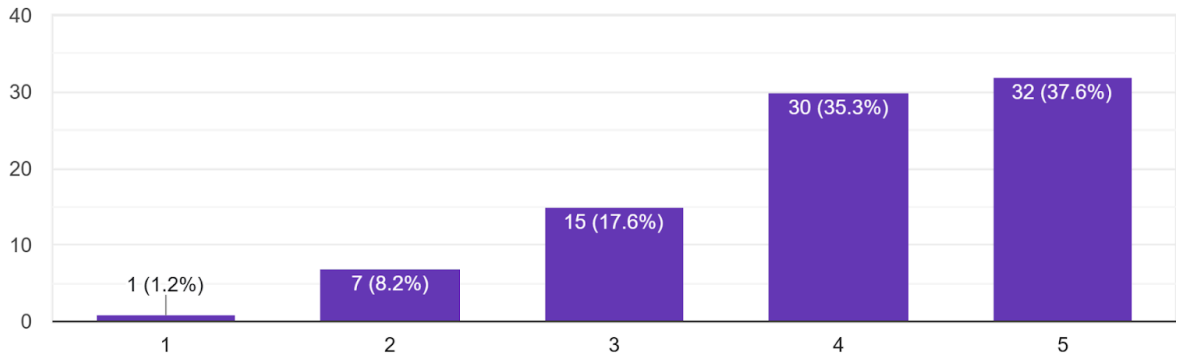
Planning and Hosting Alumni Events

84 responses



Supporting the Chapter/Collegiate Brothers

85 responses

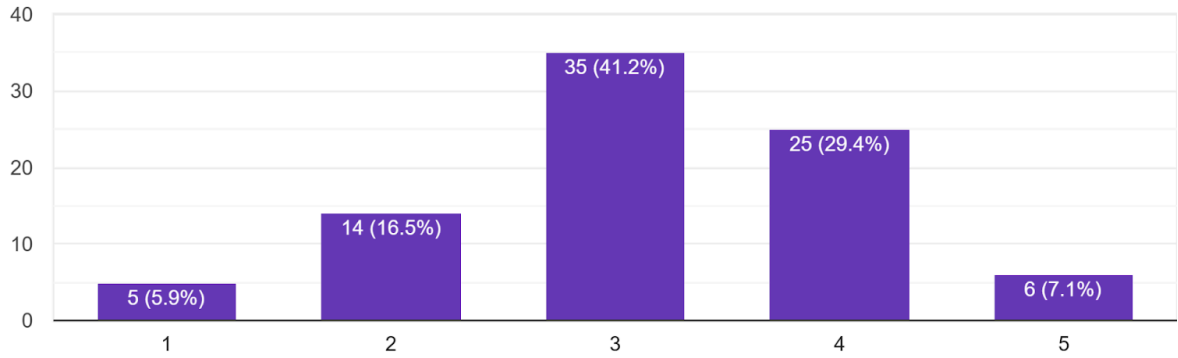


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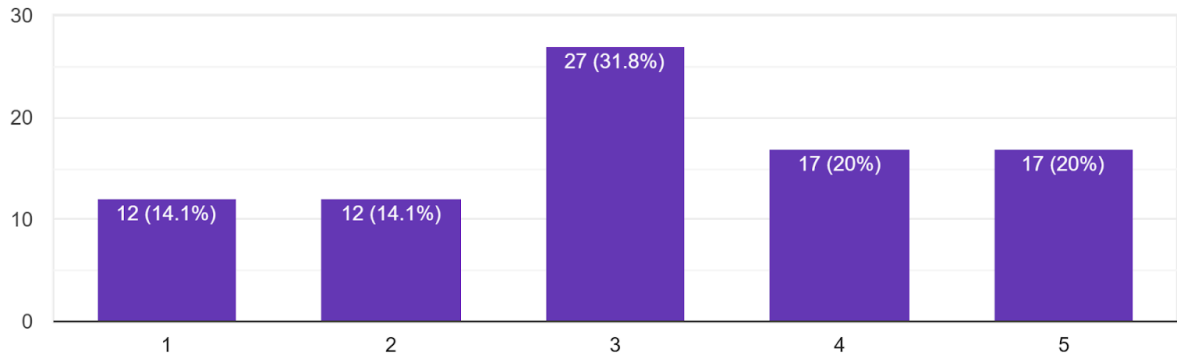
Supporting National Fraternity Initiatives

85 responses



Seating a delegate at Convention (voting)

85 responses

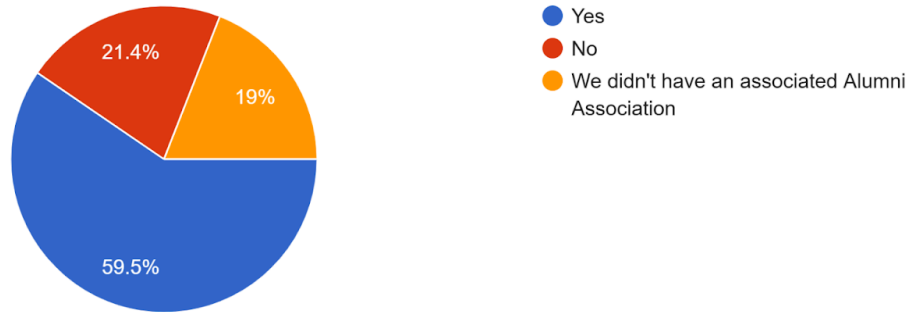


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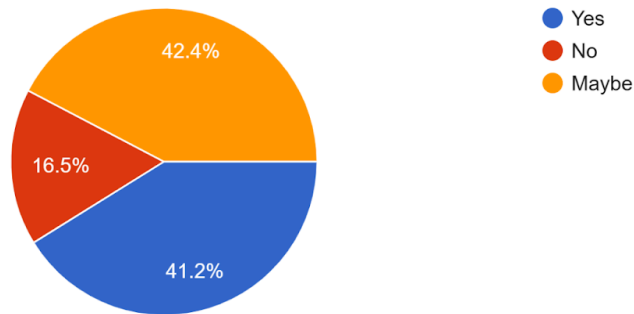
Did you have an open and constant line of communication with the Alumni Association for your chapter while in college?

84 responses



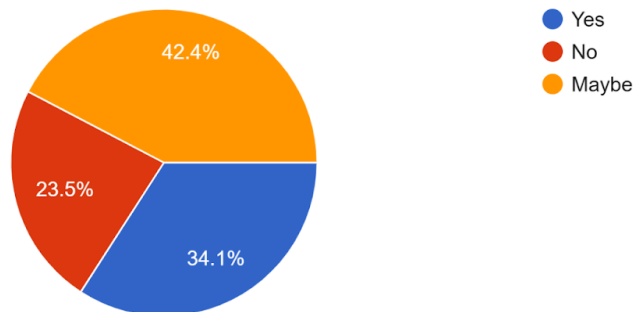
Would you consider joining an Alumni Association that was started by a separate chapter

85 responses



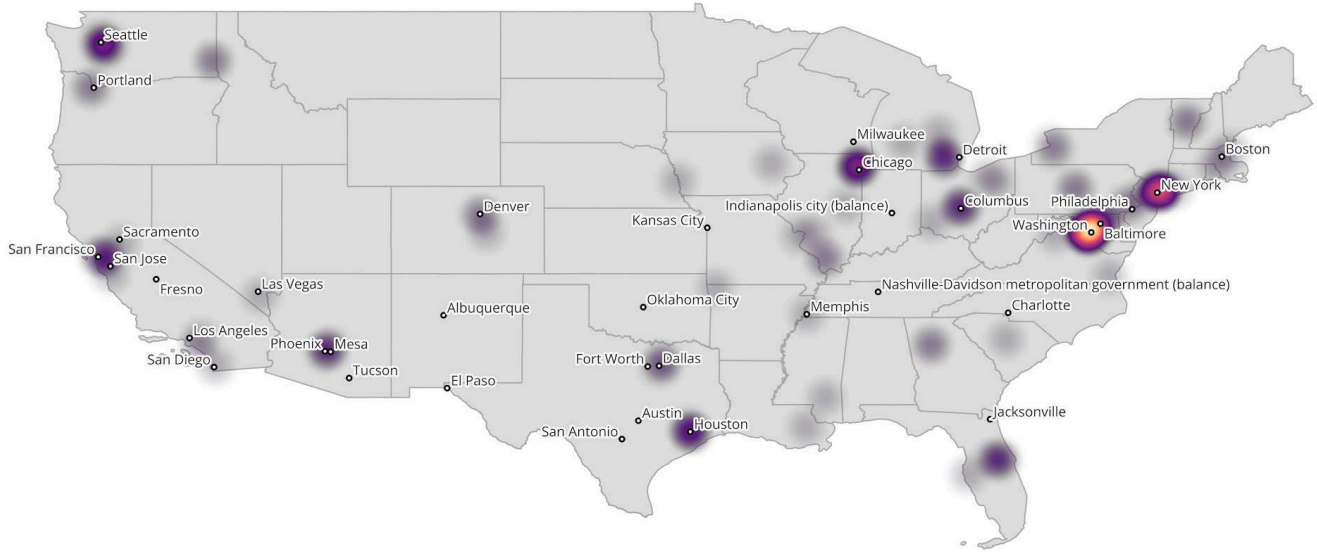
Would you consider joining multiple Alumni Associations, if the opportunity presented itself?

85 responses



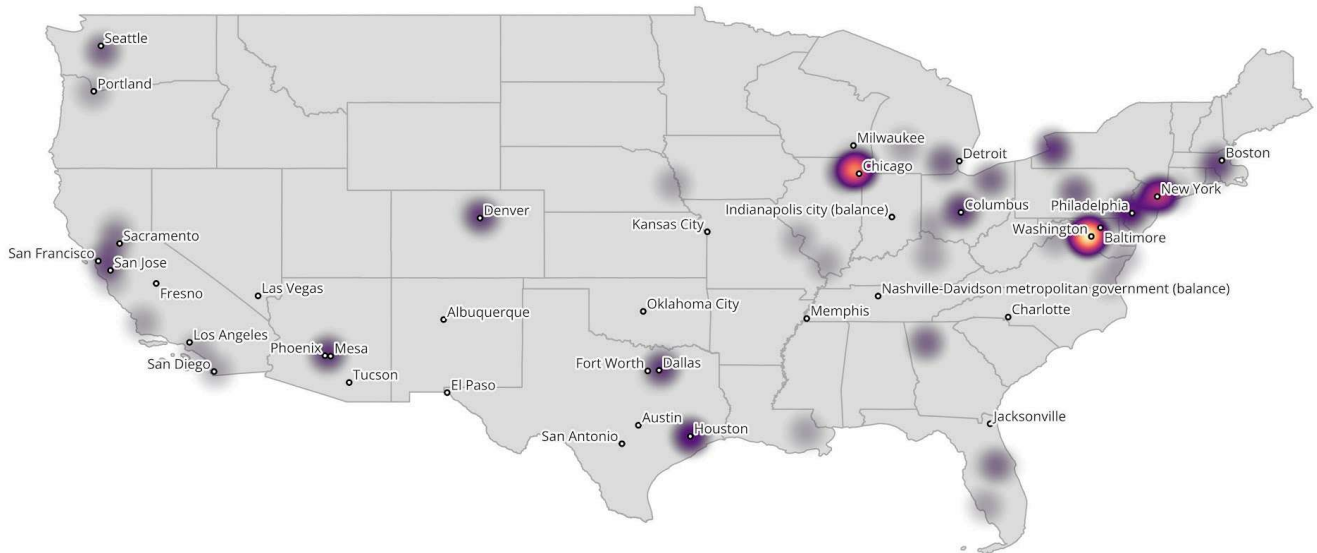
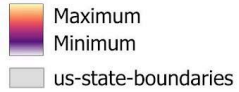
Appendix 2

Alumni Dues Heat Maps: By Year, 2021-2025



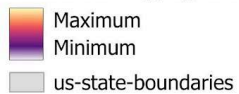
• USA_Major_Cities

Alumni GIS Mapping 2021 Heat Map

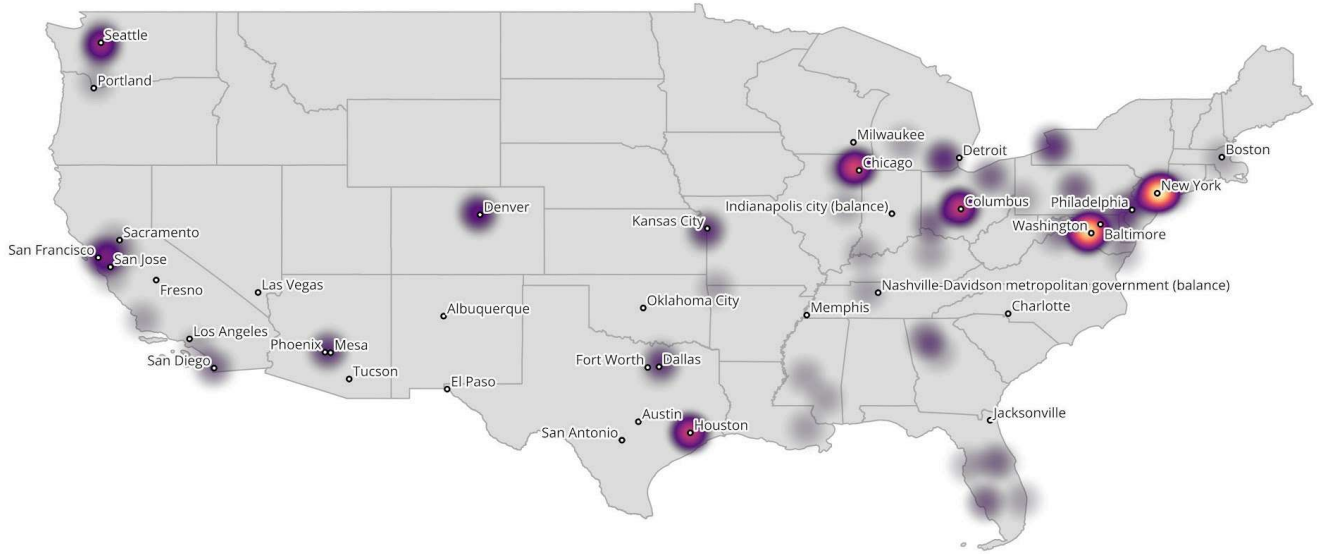


• USA_Major_Cities

Alumni GIS Mapping 2022 Heat Map



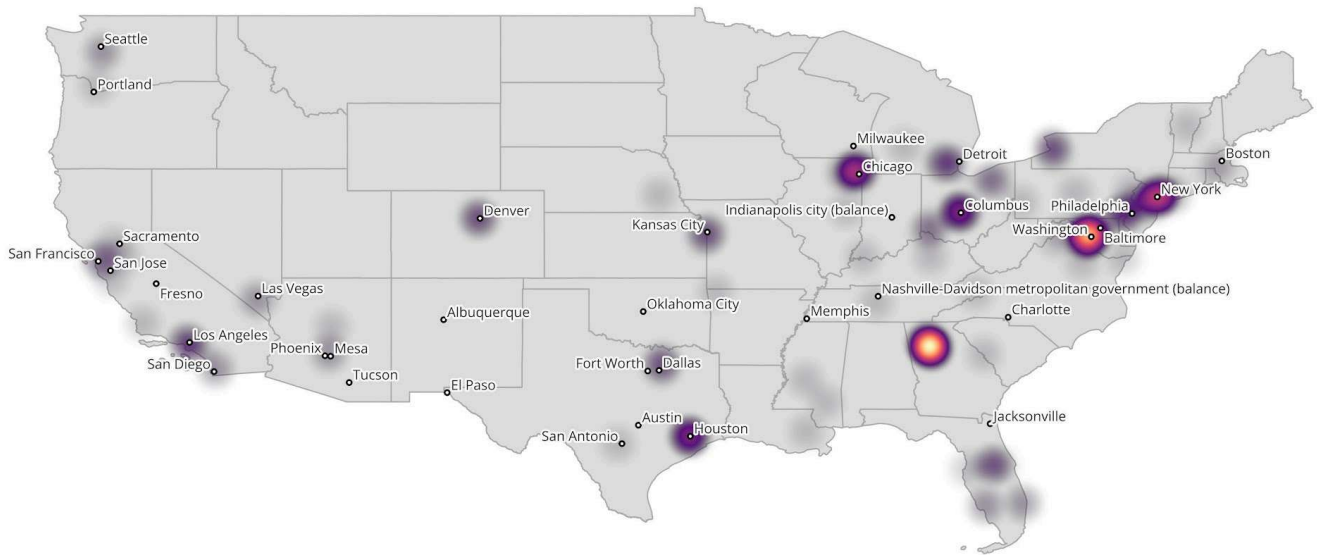
Appendix 2



• USA_Major_Cities

Alumni GIS Mapping 2023 Heat Map

- Maximum
- Minimum
- us-state-boundaries

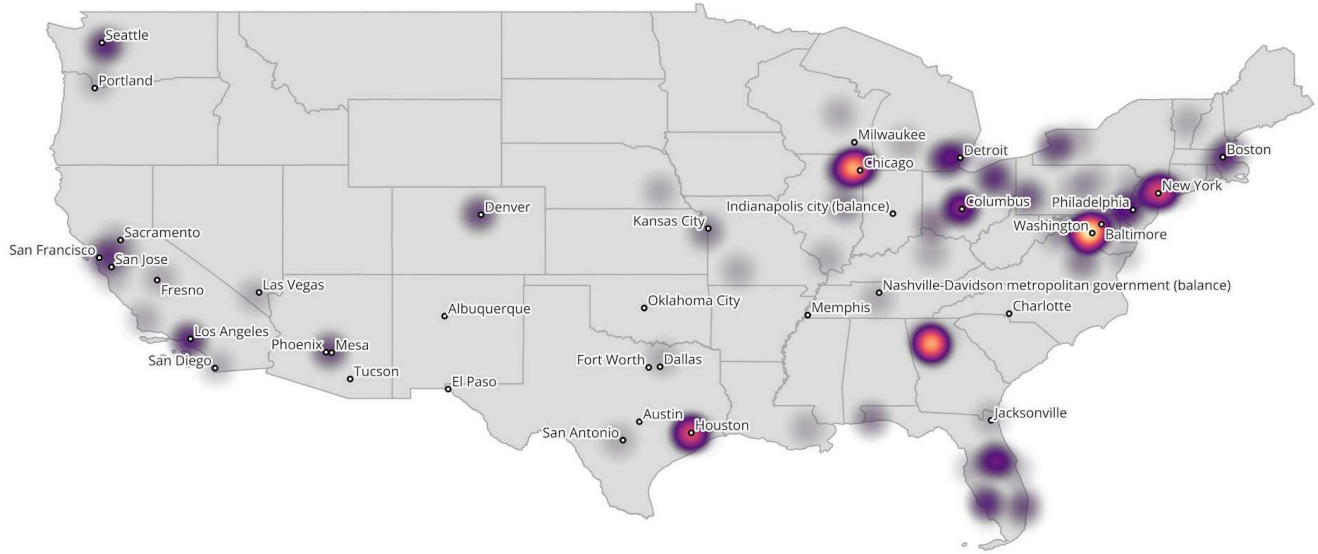


• USA_Major_Cities

Alumni GIS Mapping 2024 Heat Map

- Maximum
- Minimum
- us-state-boundaries

Appendix 2



• USA_Major_Cities

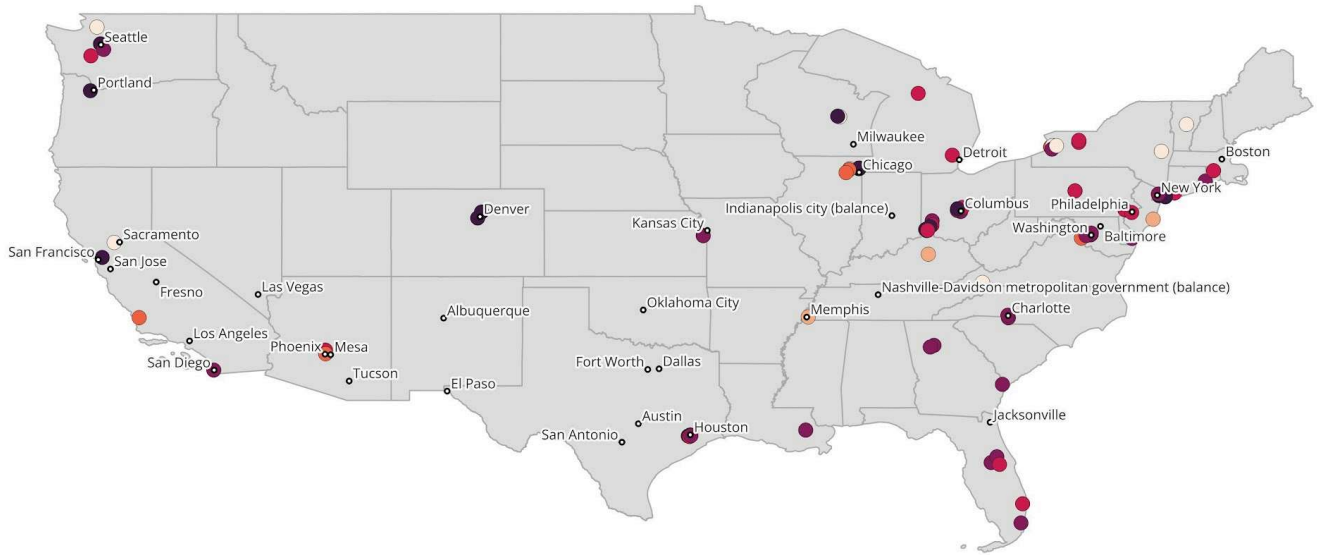
Alumni GIS Mapping 2025 Heat Map

Maximum
Minimum

us-state-boundaries

Appendix 2

Alumni Survey: Distance You Would Travel



◦ USA_Major_Cities

Alumni Survey_Distance you would travel

- Under 5 miles
- Up to 15 miles
- Up to 30 miles
- Up to 60 miles
- Up to 100 miles
- Up to 200 miles
- Over 200 miles