



FOR RELEASE
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Tau Beta Pi Announces Sandra B. Pitzak as 2016 Outstanding Advisor

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 23rd Outstanding Advisor in its program to honor engineering faculty and practitioners who make important contributions to students and collegiate chapters. While the primary goal of Tau Beta Pi is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers, the Association also lauds excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

Sandra (Sandy) Pitzak, *Colorado Beta '00*, owner and spacecraft engineer at Tomorrow's Enterprise, LLC, and Chief Advisor to the Colorado Beta Chapter, is the *2016 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor*. She will be honored on October 7, 2016, at the 111th annual Convention in San Diego, California. Tau Beta Pi President J.P. Blackford will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Ms. Pitzak. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the University of Colorado Boulder College of Engineering and Applied Science's discretionary fund.

Ms. Pitzak was cited in her nomination for critical contributions and vast knowledge of the workings of a collegiate chapter in promoting a professional and reputable view of the organization throughout the members and the college. As a result of commitment to her chapter and alma mater, she exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding collegiate advisor, always willing to go above and beyond.

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Ms. Pitzak received her bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder (CU). She was initiated into Tau Beta Pi as an undergraduate student at CU, became president of the CO Beta Chapter, and helped resuscitate the struggling chapter. She began serving as an advisor to the CO Beta Chapter in 2001 and now has 14+ years experience in her role as Chief Advisor.

One highlight of her undergraduate time was creating and promoting the Trick-or-Can community service project which is now an annual tradition. During her time as an advisor, Sandy has attended numerous TBP District Conferences and Conventions. At her second Convention (2002), Sandy helped establish the Chapter Advisors Committee as part of her successful efforts to advocate a larger role for advisors at Convention.

Previously, Sandy assisted with the preparation of the proposal package for the 2006 TBP Convention in Denver, CO, and also organized a significant portion of the onsite logistics and helped coordinate the host chapter activities. Under her leadership and guidance, CO Beta has received three Secretary's Commendation Awards, a 2011 Membership Award, and a 2005 Project Award. More recently, she has served as the liaison between the Front Range Alumni Chapter (CO & WY) and the CO Beta collegiate chapter to facilitate interaction and joint activities.

In her professional career, Sandy worked as a mission analyst for GeoEye and was responsible for orbit maintenance and collision avoidance for the GeoEye constellation of Earth-observing satellites. She has also worked at Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation as both a spacecraft power engineer and spacecraft systems engineer.

She is a true volunteer as she is not employed by the university, and she demonstrates a deep involvement in chapter activities and meetings. Ms. Pitzak has continued her leadership role to ensure the chapter has strong succession planning. One notable contribution is the formation of the informal "TBP Elders' Council" made up of former chapter presidents who are actively engaged in mentoring the chapter.

In her nomination packet, Ms. Pitzak was recognized for "always being eager to collaborate with others and find new ways to assist her students." Accordingly, she is a great resource for advisors of other student groups because of her longevity as a Tau Beta Pi chapter advisor.

In recognition of her contributions to strengthening the Association, her commitment to advising and leadership, and her nearly 20 years of dedicated service, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Sandy Pitzak as the 2016 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor.

Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 245 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 40 cities. It has initiated more than 574,000 members in its 131-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See <https://www.tbp.org/>)