# Part 5: How our chapter strives to further the SPS Purpose and Mission.

*SPS MISSION: “The SPS exists to help students transform themselves into contributing members of the professional community. Course work develops only one range of skills. Other skills needed to flourish professionally include effective communication and personal interactions, leadership experience, establishing a personal network of contacts, presenting scholarly work in professional meetings and journals, and outreach services to the campus and local communities.”*

"Our Lamar University chapter of the Society of Physics Students (LU-SPS) has had quite a year! We believe that our chapter has achieved many of the goals that were set for ourselves. We have grown quite a bit — nearly tripling the amount of members in the chapter — and as a result, we now have some room to grow from within. In addition, this year our chapter sent a group of six to PhysCON, where as mentioned in section three, we had three members with poster presentations and a variety of opportunities to network and interact with other members of the physics community.

One of our goals for the upcoming 2017-18 year is to continue the rigorous chapter growth that we achieved during 2016-17 in order to reach a wider selection of students at Lamar University. We aspire for our chapter to be incredibly inclusive across campus so that we are better recognized and therefore more effective with our outreach and fundraising events.

Simultaneously, a chapter goal of equal importance is to encourage member involvement from within. We have obtained many members in the past year, but maintain only a few that are consistently active. To help with in-chapter involvement, we plan to organize committees that will be in charge of certain duties and/or events. We believe this will make it easier for our members to volunteer their time by delegating the opportunities to become involved among multiple people. This will also encourage more communication within the chapter as well. We are planning on a day in the fall to train members who want to be more involved in a variety of simple physics demonstrations that we have done in the past during outreach events. This way, members can make themselves not only available, but capable of chapter involvement on and off campus.

Our outreach events, both on and off campus, are one of our chapter’s main priorities. We take great pride in our work and are eager to share it with today’s youth, with hopes that we can ignite interest in the many fields that members of LU-SPS are studying. This year, we want to take this a step further, by looking for opportunities to integrate our outreach events with philanthropy and fundraising. We believe that providing information on the opportunities students have is equally as important as clearing a pathway to those opportunities.

This past year, our chapter prioritized organizing more social events. We regularly scheduled “Physics After Dark,” where members would visit with one another and play a number of board games for a couple of hours on Tuesday nights. During the 2017-18 year, we would like to extend that to other events, such as participating in a Run for Science 5K together or having the occasional movie night. The main target is to get a broader amount of involvement from our members so that LU-SPS as a whole may bond together, encouraging our members to improve their communication, leadership, and networking skills.

Another reason for more member involvement is to introduce new members to opportunities for research projects. SPS is a great way to build skills required that course work cannot, and a large part of that is the research that members of LU-SPS can be a part of. It is important that we make these opportunities available for all members aspiring to move forward in the professional community. These projects are also a great tool for networking when we present at off-campus events, and help us to better represent our chapter.

We aspire to reestablish a corresponding and long-lasting Sigma Pi Sigma chapter, with a goal to hold an induction this fall for incoming members. We would delegate more service-oriented opportunities and events to the Sigma Pi Sigma chapter, such as the increase in SPS-related philanthropy mentioned before. Additionally, we want to increase the amount of SPS National members that are a part of LU-SPS.

Altogether, our main goal in the upcoming 2017-18 year is an improvement in member involvement. It spans over every aspect of our chapter, from social events to outreach to research. We have seen great growth in the chapter previously and want to encourage those with interest to jump in and join us! We believe that the goals we have set for our chapter this year will help to build our members to be contributing members of the professional community."