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As I plot out my vision of what I believe the next year of North Carolina AZA should look like, I'm very quickly reminded that we are in a great place. In the last year, the brightest leaders of AZA have shown through on every level of the order, and it shows! While NCC AZA takes leaps and bounds in leadership and fraternity, our brotherhood faces the most important questions: What's next? How can we continue to grow this brotherhood into something even greater than it was the day before? When pondering questions such as these, I see the ambition and growth of this council clear as day. **I see a bright future for AZA.** But again, what's next? And moreover, how? For my vision of AZA, I see the growth of chapter excellence, the development of inspired leaders, and the passing of ambitious membership goals. To accomplish these goals, I'm proposing concrete ideas and initiatives that I will carry out to strengthen AZA in the next programming year.

To ensure that AZA reaches its full potential, I believe that we have to hone in our focus on chapter growth, individual leadership, and strong bonds between brothers. By achieving these goals, NCC AZA will see unprecedented growth in chapter rosters, quality of boards, and rates of retention. My first method of carrying out chapter growth is incorporating international resources such as the Chapter Excellence Planning Toolkit, which gives chapters a strong guide towards excelling. The Toolkit highlights the various steps that chapters have to work towards in order to grow stronger, and I, along with the Council Board, will work constantly to keep them in line with these standards. Next, for Alephs to learn the ins and outs of BBYO while coming to appreciate its principles, I aim to create AZA Education, which would act as Eastern's guide to leadership. By learning how to become a stronger leader in our region, general members would be driven to attend summer programs, gain leadership roles, and become a role model for others. Lastly, I aim to incorporate a Regional Big-Little Program that will guarantee the retention of older members and the establishment of a young class of leaders. After bonding at MIT/AIT, a senior Aleph and an AIT will become brothers. Once a strong year of friendship and mentoring is completed, the young Aleph will be inspired to attain leadership while the senior leaves BBYO fulfilled knowing that they inspired the next generation of Alephs. These initiatives act holistically, as their proper implementation ensures chapter growth, leadership development, and improved retention.

While I believe that carrying out these initiatives will bring about the growth of AZA, North Carolina AZA truly has no boundaries in its potential to achieve excellence. Each and every one of you has your vision of what AZA should look like, and by carrying out **my vision**, I hope to help you bring about **yours**. Thank you!