A Sincere Thank You to our Carolinas Region!

As our time together comes to a close with our upcoming Regional Convention in March, We want to take this time to say Thank You to Papa & Beth and the entire Carolinas Region with whom we are blessed to call our Phi Theta Kappa family. From the bottom of our hearts, we are grateful for people like you. Thank you for your kindness and generosity along this amazing journey as it is appreciated more than we can express. Thank you for allowing us to stand proud and represent our great region in all our many very individualist ways. Thank you for such an amazing experience and opportunity, and we love you. May you follow your dreams and always believe in yourself. Keep your eyes on the stars and hope in your heart!

Your Regional Leadership team,
Paulette, Ruth, Valerie, & Jennifer

“Success is not final. Failure is not Fatal: It is the Courage to continue that counts” – Winston Churchill
Commit to Complete (C2C) Event

By: Beta Eta Pi Chapter, CCTC

The Beta Eta Pi chapter of Central Carolina Technical College in conjunction with the many student services of CCTC hosted our first ever, Commit to Complete event on October 7 and 8. Our event was modeled after the C4 program that we learned more about at the Regional Leadership Conference that we attended in Myrtle Beach, SC on Sept 1-4, 2014.

Upon our return, we started brainstorming and realized to create the event we envisioned, we would need to partner with other areas of our college. Our goals for our Commit to Complete (C2C) event were: reach out to our students and remind them of their educational goals, encourage them to stay strong and complete the semester, promote the many student service resources available to assist students, provide de-stressing activities (music and games) and encourage students to register early for the Spring semester.

Since we had two weeks and no budget we hit the road running. Elizabeth Bastedo, Phi Theta Kappa co-advisor wrote a request for funds to CCTCs foundation. The CCTC foundation awarded $200 to purchase marketing materials and the Beta Eta Pi members approved $100 to purchase snacks, drinks and candy for the C2C event. Our chapter was able to procure another $100 from our leadership team and we had our budget of $400. Our event was going to be promoted at several CCTC locations during the day and evening for all students.

We coordinated the participation of the student services with our Student Life Coordinator, Austin Floyd, at Central Carolina Technical College. Our Public Relations Department designed our flyers and posters, C2C bracelets were designed and ordered and we, the members and advisors of Beta Eta Pi, volunteered for shifts. Our goal was to have at least 200 students make the pledge to Commit to Complete. After our two day event, we had a total of 547 students and faculty pledge to Commit to Complete their programs of study! We were blown away by the success and hope to make this an annual event at our college!

Beta Nu Upsilon of Pitt Community College is up to its test tubes in research! Our Honors in Action Project is still developing, but has taken us to Danville, Virginia, and Eden, North Carolina, in search of lingering traces of coal ash from a spill in February 2014. Armed with heavy metal test kits, in June we took our water trap to a bridge and two shorelines and secured water and soil samples. We will return in the fall for another round as we investigate the dangers of coal ash, its presence in surrounding waterways, and narrow down an awareness project.

We also interviewed our geology instructor at one of our meetings to dig deeper into the issues of coal ash.

We have also started a tutoring program at the Boys and Girls Club and water-balooned the campus during Summer Splash. Our College Project is focused on getting timely information to students on the transferability of their classes.

By: Beta Nu Upsilon Chapter, PCC
The Alpha Eta Kappa chapter of Midlands Technical College is proud to announce alumna Sara Oswald's graduation from Harvard University on May 29, 2014. Chapter advisors Kitty Spires and Wendy Samuel attended Harvard's 363rd commencement in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to witness Sara receive her diploma.

Sara transferred her entire Midlands Technical College (MTC) Associate in Arts degree to Harvard University, and was the first student in MTC history to do so. She also received Harvard's Phi Theta Kappa scholarship to attend – the total out-of-pocket cost for her bachelor’s degree (including MTC tuition and an overseas Harvard semester based in central Europe) cost less than $2000.

Sara graduated cum laude from Harvard with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Humanities. She also received Harvard’s Dean’s List Academic Achievement Award for graduating with a GPA greater than 3.5. Sara first learned of the transfer opportunity to Harvard University Extension School following her appointment to the South Carolina All-State Academic Team, a program sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa that annually recognizes the scholarly achievements of approximately 20 students enrolled in two-year colleges in the state. Sara was actually contacted by a Harvard admissions representative who encouraged her to not only apply to Harvard, but also to apply for the scholarship she eventually received. “I’ve gone from Midlands Technical College to Harvard University due to a combination of tenacity and patience, and the support I’ve received from both MTC and Harvard’s faculty and staff has granted me the confidence to achieve the greatest dreams,” Sara said.

Just a few weeks prior to her Harvard graduation, Sara was accepted into the first cohort for Harvard Business School’s CORe program, a new online certificate program from Harvard Business School. She’ll start the two-month program on June 11.

Sara is a seventh-generation resident of the rural Cedar Creek area of Blythewood, SC, and was the first in her family to graduate college. She wants to maintain her South Carolina roots and work in the state, but she says she will go wherever she can best use her talents.

Sara’s wish is that her academic journey serves to inspire her fellow South Carolinians, no matter their age or background, to be fearless in pursuing their goals.

Sara served as secretary for the Alpha Eta Kappa chapter from 2009-2010, and as chapter president from 2010-2011. She guided Alpha Eta Kappa to their Five Star chapter recognition. Sara also represented South Carolina as Vice President for the Alpha Omega Carolinas Region Alumni Association from 2012-2014.
Alpha Upsilon Eta chapter members have been crafting for a cause this fall. In response to the Regional Service Project, the members chose to give back to our community through donating chemo caps to a local cancer center. Chapter officers contacted Mission Hospital’s SECU Cancer Center and discovered there is typically a short supply of chemo caps available during the winter months. Rather than taking donations for the caps, the chapter members took donations for crocheting supplies. Each sixteen ounce donation of yarn provided enough material to make up to three chemo caps.

The chapter held a group crafting day to kick off the project. Communications officer, Michelle Irwin, provided patterns, crafting supplies, and a detailed walk-through of the instructions for making the caps. Members who did not feel confident in their crocheting abilities were offered the option to make a supplies contribution for the chemo caps. Throughout the fall 2014 semester, chapter members spent more than 75 hours crocheting 30 chemo caps for donation.

Finally, on December 29th, all of the hard work paid off. The chapter officers were able to deliver the caps to a representative at the cancer center. The receiving representative was thrilled with the chapter’s donation. She thanked the officers and assured them the caps would be greatly appreciated and provide much needed moral support to their recipients.
On March 27th, 2014, Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Chi Sigma chapter helped host a “Welcome Home” ceremony for honorable guests U.S. Marine David Nilson and his service dog, Sonny. Mr. Nilson and Sonny were stationed in Afghanistan as specialists on improvised explosive devices (IED’s). Since then, they both have retired.

The celebration began at 1pm and started at the North campus. Led by a motorcycle escort, our honorable guests were taken on a route that ended in Tabitha’s courtyard on the downtown campus. The ceremony started at 2pm. Other veterans were also honored and recognized at the welcome home event. At the beginning of the ceremony, our chapter President, Billy Koch, was invited to introduce the pledge of allegiance. Our advisor, Dr. Schulte was given the honor of presenting the books that were donated from Cape Fear Community College to Rolling Thunder. Rolling Thunder is the motorcycle club that also helped host the celebration event as well as deliver the books to Camp Lejeune.

The book drive was held days prior to introduce the event. Alpha Chi Sigma set up boxes for the veteran book drive and placed them throughout the campus. Once the drive was over, the books would be taken to the hospital at Camp Lejeune and given to the soldiers. Alpha Chi Sigma chapter helped collect 3000 books for the soldiers.

Members, friends and family of the Alpha Nu Sigma chapter at Horry-Georgetown Technical College and members of Alpha Chi Sigma at Cape Fear Community College gathered at Myrtle Beach State Park on September 20, 2014 to participate in the 2014 Annual Beach Sweep. Over twenty people came out to help clean up one of the most beautiful parks in the state. Working together in teams, we picked up almost a dozen full bags of trash and over a thousand cigarette butts within our group alone. After all of the hard work was done, food and fellowship followed. One of the park rangers gave a presentation on Invasive Species that was as enlightening as it was interesting. The Vice President of Scholarship Kim Williams and the Vice President of Fellowship Michael Rovetto want to personally thank everyone who attended this year and we are looking forward to having you join us next year!
River Clean Up
By: Alpha Omicron Delta Chapter, ACC

Alamance Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa members participated in a river clean-up for their Regional Service Project. The chapter’s president contacted the executive director of the Haw River Assembly, Elaine Chiosso, to obtain permission for the event. Alpha Omicron Delta spent a sunny Saturday picking up trash near the banks of a section of the Haw River in Saxapahaw, NC. Among the most notable pieces of garbage were three couch cushions, a fishing rod, and mismatched socks!

The Alpha Omicron Delta officers were given the opportunity to have lunch with Alamance Community College’s new president, Dr. Algie Gatewood, in order to discuss our college project. It turned out that our proposal to hand out resource guides and help direct students on the first day of school fit perfectly with Dr. Gatewood’s vision of a place that fosters relationships and opportunities. He encouraged us to keep him updated on our future service projects and even invited us to give a presentation on Phi Theta Kappa to the College Board of Trustees. We are all looking forward to talking more with Dr. Gatewood and working to make Alamance Community College and the surrounding communities even better.
Beta Theta Rho, the local Five Star Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Randolph Community College, welcomed 100 new members to its ranks during its Spring Induction Ceremony on March 29, in the R. Alton Cox Learning Resources Center auditorium on the Asheboro Campus. This is the largest number of students inducted in one semester since the chapter was chartered in November 1999, breaking the previous record of 70.

Becky Pell, Beta Theta Rho treasurer, led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Vice President Tommy Smith who provided the invocation. Clark Adams, chapter advisor, welcomed the crowd and explained the mission and purpose of Phi Theta Kappa. He explained to the capacity crowd that Phi Theta Kappa is about giving extra in terms of time and effort. “These are not ordinary students; these are extraordinary students,” said Adams. Adams mentioned that being extraordinary means doing that little something extra, such as extra study and preparation, extra work, extra reading, and extra research. The guest speaker was a Phi Theta Kappa alumni and graduate of the first class of Randolph Early College High School, Megan Cates, who is currently a Life Skills teacher at Ragsdale High School in Jamestown, N.C. She spoke to the inductees about being trailblazers. She encouraged them to take the lead and to be part of something “bigger than yourself.” Her advice was to focus on the four pillars of Phi Theta Kappa: leadership, scholarship, fellowship, and service. The inductees were told to set the example and encourage others, to be lifelong learners, to help one another grow, and to be active in their chapter, school, and community. She concluded by telling them that their time at Randolph Community College is not the end of their education, but the beginning.

RCC President Robert Shackleford was the keynote speaker. He addressed the new members, offering advice and encouragement. The main focus of his message was the importance of good character. He told the audience that life is not about how much a person knows, but how they act. The inductees were advised to add character to their scholarship. Dr. Shackleford also presented Waymon Martin, department head for Business Administration and chapter advisor, with the distinguished Phi Theta Kappa 10-year pin, a special honor given only to those who have devoted a decade of their lives as an advisor for their chapter. Martin is in his 11th year as an advisor.

Dr. James W. Kelley, vice president of student services, presided over the ceremony and inducted the new members. Student officers of the local chapter played key roles in the ceremony. Danielle McNeill, who serves as president, told the inductees to add character to their scholarship. Dr. Shackleford also presented Waymon Martin, department head for Business Administration and chapter advisor, with the distinguished Phi Theta Kappa 10-year pin, a special honor given only to those who have devoted a decade of their lives as an advisor for their chapter. Martin is in his 11th year as an advisor.

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Of the 100 inductees, 64 participated in the ceremony, overflowing the auditorium and corridors with their family and friends. Students and their guests were invited to enjoy light refreshments and fellowship in the Armadillo Cafe following the induction.

Established in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa is the only international honor society serving two-year institutions. It recognizes the academic achievement and integrity of students enrolled in the associate degree program. Students who are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa must have completed 12 credit hours and must possess a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Beta Theta Rho was chartered in November 1999 and has inducted over 2,000 students in the past 14 years. The Five Star status recognizes chapters that have met a higher standard of quality programming. RCC’s chapter has maintained Five Star status for 11 consecutive years.

Currently, the advisors for Beta Theta Rho are Waymon Martin; Clark Adams, English/Communication instructor; Melissa Earliwine, Developmental Mathematics instructor; and Dorothy Hans, English/Reading instructor.

Randolph Community College inducted its largest class of Phi Theta Kappa scholars ever on March 29. Sixty-four (pictured in these two photos) of the 100 students inducted this spring attended the ceremony.
I am enjoying being a member of Phi Theta Kappa, but I initially had to get over my doubts and fears about becoming actively involved. My first hurdle came when I received my invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa this past spring. I was thrilled, but my first thought was, “Am I too old to get so excited about this?” I considered going ahead and joining, but not participating in the induction ceremony for fear of being the oldest student there. I thought I might get embarrassed being in front of younger students and their parents. As I mulled over these thoughts, I found myself asking, “Why not?! I had earned this honor! I decided I was going to the induction ceremony and that I would stand tall in my accomplishments.

The next hurdle I found myself stumbling over was whether or not I should attempt to fill an officer position in our chapter, Alpha Alpha Iota. At first I told myself that the younger students would probably want to fill those roles and that I would be better off on the sidelines. Part of me wanted to be an officer, but another part of me was scared that I was too old and wouldn’t fit in. Several days later I was approached by one of the advisors and asked if I would consider being an officer. I was shocked! Where were all the younger students I saw at the induction ceremony? Should I do this? Was I willing to step out of my comfort zone? I found myself asking, “Why not?!"

I encountered another hurdle when I was trying to decide whether or not I should attend the Carolinas Region Honors Institute at Campbell University. Again, I went back to wondering if I might be too old. I decided to step out of my comfort zone once more and go for it. I was pleasantly surprised to find that there were many older students at the conference. In fact, I wasn’t even the oldest one. I felt welcomed and encouraged by all of my peers, from the youngest to the oldest. I was amazed to discover that everyone at the conference was just like me! They cared about what I had to say and listened to my input on topics we covered in our group sessions. I finally came to the realization that age didn’t matter.

Becoming actively involved with Phi Theta Kappa has taken a good bit of my time and has definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone, but the rewards are well worth it. I am growing in my leadership abilities and becoming more outspoken. I have realized that my voice DOES matter. I am sure there will be many more hurdles for me to tackle, both at school and in life, but my experiences in Phi Theta Kappa will help me to overcome them.

To all the older members out there who aren’t actively involved I want to ask, “What are you waiting for?” We need you and your life experiences! To the younger members who aren’t actively involved I ask, “What are you waiting for?” We need young people like you to help lead us into the future! If you find yourself questioning whether or not you should become actively involved with Phi Theta Kappa, ask yourself this question, “Why not?!"
Earth Day, April 22nd, 2014, was a productive day for the Alpha Zeta Sigma chapter. The day’s events included a campus wide cleanup and vegetable garden planting. Our goal was to engage the entire student body and do something for both Mother Nature and the college campus.

During the planning stages of our Earth Day event, we created an informational slide for the flat screen advertisers on campus and also contacted professors in hopes they would help us to spread the word. Some professors thought the event was such a great idea that they offered extra credit to their students for participating.

On the day of the event, we brought trash bags and gloves for all volunteers, and set up a table in our University Transfer building as a meeting spot, where volunteers could help decorate and sign their names on a poster commemorating the event. We also had C4 signature sheets onsite for participants to sign the pledge of college completion. Having three separate shifts scheduled throughout the day allowed for more ground to be cleaned along with more opportunities for participants to join the event.

In total, approximately thirty bags of trash were collected by a total of twenty-six volunteers. It was rewarding to see all of the trash that we collected, including a surprising amount of glass and obvious remnants of when smoking was still permitted on campus.

Between the first and second clean-up shifts, we planted a vegetable garden. Caroline France, our chapter president, is also a member of the Biology Club, which has three previously unplanted raised garden beds next to our Health Sciences building. As an employee at Lowe’s Home Improvement Store, Trisha Markus, another chapter officer, was able to garner a generous donation from her store for plants (jalapeño peppers, banana peppers, cherry tomatoes, okra, and marigolds). The fresh food harvested from this garden has been donated to Greenville Technical College’s food bank for students in need.

Overall, this Earth Day event brought to fruition by the Alpha Zeta Sigma chapter was very successful and rewarding. In addition to beautifying the Earth and our campus, this event offered us the opportunity to meaningfully connect with new Phi Theta Kappa members as well as other fellow students. Our biggest lessons learned include having more advanced planning and advertising more effectively to recruit more participants. We hope to apply our lessons learned next year in order to make it a bigger event with an even stronger impact.
Despite being chartered for more than forty years, the Tau Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa from Davidson County Community College in Lexington, NC is getting active for the first time with lots of energy and excitement. One of the highest priorities for the chapter is giving back to the community through service, which is one of the four key hallmarks for the honor society. Starting in November, chapter officers and members met to discuss a variety of ideas for service projects that could be completed right before the holidays; there was a unanimous vote to make cards for veterans at the W.G. Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, NC. Throughout the month of December, members of the chapter, with the assistance of students all over campus, made more than 200 cards that came in many shapes and designs. Tables stocked with a variety of craft supplies were spread out across campus in order to reach as many students as possible. Several members also got together and made 100 ornaments out of hard candies to deliver along with the cards. “My husband and I did something similar to this when we lived in Florida, and I remember it meant a lot to the veterans and also touched a piece of my heart,” commented Darlene Trahan, Vice President of Service for the chapter. “It was an honor to do something for the veterans who have done so much for us, and the cards were just a little token of appreciation to let them know we are thinking about them this holiday season.” After communicating with administration at the facility, the group that delivered the gifts was able to work alongside several other organizations who were also there to spread holiday cheer to all of the veterans at the medical center; on December 18th, eleven chapter members, officers, and advisors hand delivered the gifts, and spent several hours talking with the veterans while expressing gratitude for their service. Many of them were touched to know that someone was thinking about them and took time out of their day to make a little something special. For being the first service project completed by the Tau Beta Chapter, it was deemed a success, and will more than likely become an annual tradition for years to come.

By: Tau Beta Chapter, DCCC
Sponsored by Piedmont Community College’s (PCC) Alpha Upsilon Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, the student-led event benefitted the Kirby Rebirth: Upstairs-Uptown project to renovate the second floor of the historic Kirby Cultural Arts Complex. Teresa Burch, project chairman, said the event earned over $6,000 for the Kirby Rebirth.

“When this project was in the planning stages, I hoped and prayed that we would have some people besides family and friends show up,” said Teresa Burch, the Vice President of Communications to the Alpha Upsilon Theta Chapter. “But the people of Roxboro proved to me once again what a great community we live in and how they can be counted on to help out when needed. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect that we would have over 600 people attend in a great show of support for our local contestants and for the Kirby.”

Phi Theta Kappa members chose to hold the local vocal competition as its Honors in Action project, using the theme “How Does Competition Affect the Arts” in May 2013 and began planning. “We immediately knew what we wanted to do with this project,” recalled Burch. “Since this project needed to benefit the community, we felt that the Kirby Rebirth would be the perfect beneficiary.”

Calling the Kirby Theater “a pillar of our community and a beautiful landmark that holds so much artistic history,” Burch said, “The building is part of what makes our hometown special. The other part is the citizens of this community who support us.” Thirteen-year-old Precious Boyd wowed the celebrity judges and the sold-out audience to be named the winner of the Rockin’ in Roxboro competition on Saturday night. Person County teacher Tina Powell Kennedy was named runner-up. In addition to Boyd and Kennedy, contestants included Joyce Deese, Michael Dixon, David Ramsey, Robin Riggins, Joey Scott, and Leslie Wyatt. They performed for celebrity judges Cody Clark of WQDR Radio, Miss North Carolina Johna Edmonds, Mike Morse of WNCN-TV’s My Carolina Today show, and Brian Shrader of WRAL-TV.

The judges said they were impressed with the talent of all the contestants, and especially with the big voice of the diminutive Boyd, who they compared to Whitney Houston. Boyd sang “At Last” by Etta James in the initial round of competition. In an unexpected offer, Morse also invited Boyd to appear on his television show last Monday morning for a live performance. (Her performance may be viewed online at http://www.wncn.com/story/24556678/singer-precious-boyd.

Local law enforcement investigator Ricky Hughes served as emcee, interviewing the contestants following each performance and keeping the audience entertained. Also performing in the program were and Chuck Dixon, who previously won an audition for American Idol and Roxboro Community School student Jenna Scott.

Phi Theta Kappa dedicated Rockin’ in Roxboro to the late Doug Newell, former executive director of the Person County Arts Council in recognition of his contributions to the arts in Person County and to the Kirby Cultural Arts Complex. Members of the Newell family were seated on the front row as special guests, and Roxboro Mayor Merilyn Newell spoke about her late husband’s commitment to the arts.

Elizabeth Townsend, Executive Director of the PCC Foundation, recognized major Kirby Rebirth contributors on stage between the three rounds of competition. The first phase of the Kirby Rebirth project will be used to provide access to the second floor of the Kirby Building through the installation of an elevator and other infrastructure improvements. The upstairs space will be used for art studios, galleries, rehearsal space, and a large meeting room.
Discovering the Value of Phi Theta Kappa

By: Hervy Christmas
Alpha Pi Alpha Chapter
Guilford Technical Community College

For more than 10 years, I was in a truck, driving across the country. I found myself spending a lot of time reflecting on the past and planning for the future. I began a study of personal development and success in which I learned how important it is to identify a major passion and create a lifestyle that allows me to express that passion. My major passion, I discovered, was to help people.

The trucking company that I was working for went out of business in 2011, and I immediately enrolled in classes at Guilford Technical Community College. It took me a year to actually decide to enroll in a curriculum program. When I decided to enroll in a curriculum program, I also decided that I would graduate and that I would do it as an honors student. This December I will complete my first Major in Computer Information Technology with a 3.8 GPA.

Soon after starting my degree program, I began getting emails from Phi Theta Kappa. I knew nothing about the organization and wasn't all that familiar with honor societies, in general, because in high school my grades didn't qualify me. I looked into Phi Theta Kappa and discovered that it was more than just some club that wanted to build its membership numbers. I discovered that they do positive things related to education, helping others, leaving a positive impact on the community, personal development, and leadership skills. Without a doubt this was an organization that I wanted to join.

Unfortunately, I was still working on my time management skills. I was a full time student who was working, building a business, and doing favors for other people, so I procrastinated joining. During the last year of my program, I decided that I was good enough at managing my time that I could take on membership in Phi Theta Kappa. I looked into it once again and decided it was a go. I knew that being a member of such an organization would not only give me a chance to make a difference in some way but also that my experiences and participation in the organization would improve my life skills, as well as my value in the marketplace. I discovered that the time commitment was low but the opportunities for growth were high.

Other benefits to membership that attracted me were the exclusive scholarship opportunities. I had not originally planned on transferring, but it is not out of the question, and a scholarship would be a big incentive. I found that colleges are serious about opening the doors up to honor society members. I have gotten letters from Morehouse, Long Island University, Florida Poly Tech and a few others.

I joined Phi Theta Kappa because I knew that for someone who wanted more out of life, it would be an opportunity to give and to receive. Phi Theta Kappa puts you in company with people who are like minded in many ways, which include having a positive outlook on life and ambition to succeed. It is a fellowship of the type of people that I like being associated with and permanently linked to. For twenty years, I have been telling people that an American Automobile Association (AAA) membership is the best investment of money around. Now for the first time, I have come across a new #1 value. Phi Theta Kappa has unending opportunities in a lifetime membership for a one-time fee. No contest! I look forward to giving back for this invaluable opportunity as an officer in spring 2015.
The Williamsburg Technical College (WTC) Alpha Sigma Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa received an award at the recent Service Learning Awards presented by the S.C. Commission on Higher Education (CHE) as the top public two-year institution for its health fair.

The winning service learning project involved nursing students at WTC working with several other groups on campus, including Phi Theta Kappa, to organize a health fair. The nursing students provided health screenings and disseminated information about common health issues to residents of Williamsburg County. In doing so, they practiced many of the skills they have learned directly for the nursing program as well as the problem solving, teamwork, and leadership skills necessary to make a meaningful contribution to the community. WTC president Dr. Patty Lee noted that the project was well-received by the community and is just one of the College’s efforts to show how “education is life-changing.”

The CHE awards recognize contributions made by the service learning efforts of SC colleges and universities and their students. Service learning is a meaningful opportunity for students to apply acquired knowledge and skills in solving real-world problems in their communities. The annual competition recognizes three of the most commendable service learning projects from those nominated; one award is presented to a public four-year college or university, one to a public two-year college, and one to an independent college or university.

The criteria used to select the winners include the ability to resolve community concerns or address community issues; the degree to which the project enhances students’ learning; the impact of the project on campus; and the integration of the project’s activities into academics.

The SC CHE serves as the state’s coordinating board for higher education. Its mission is to promote quality and efficiency in the state system of higher education with the goal of fostering economic growth and human development in South Carolina.

Dr. Patricia Lee, WTC’s president, (second from right) and Ms. Sha’Rhonda Blair, president of WTC Phi Theta Kappa, (center) accepted an award from the SC CHE for being selected as the top public two-year institution for the Phi Theta Kappa’s health fair event last fall. Also pictured are (from left) CHE commissioners Admiral Charles Munns, General John Finan (chairman) and Hood Temple.
On January 6th and 7th, 2014, during final spring semester registration, members of Alpha Omega Nu assisted with Edgecombe Community College’s C4 event on both the Tarboro and Rocky Mount campuses. C4, or Community College Completion Corps, is a nationwide initiative sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa. Students sign a pledge promising to both complete their college degree, diploma, or certificate program, and to encourage their fellow students to do the same. This is the first time a C4 event has ever occurred at Edgecombe Community College.

Students signed a contract, a banner, and links in a paper chain which symbolized unity in completion efforts; they also received C4 bookmarks and wristbands. The event generated tremendous excitement both on campus and in the community. For both days, 176 students committed to complete in Tarboro, and 269 in Rocky Mount, with a cumulative total of 445 students.

The opportunity to host such an event occurred when our chapter president, Nina Sinclair, brought up the idea during lunch with the college president, at a special event at our school known as President’s Hour. Once interest in the project grew, several other student organizations chose to assist with the effort, including the Student Government Association, the college’s Ambassadors, the Criminal Justice Club, and the Medical Office Assistants Club.

Since the initial activity, the idea has spread to other locales on our campuses. Students have been offered additional chances to commit in presentations in our ACA 111, or College Student Success, courses. Autograph bulletin boards, special places to record goals and dreams, have also been provided around our school. Envisioned as an ongoing initiative at ECC, C4 is expected to create continued enthusiasm at college events.
Alpha Nu Tau Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in Wilson, NC had a service project on April 2nd at the Freeman Round House Museum. Several students and advisor Angela Grantham met on the grounds to pull weeds and pick up trash. The Phi Theta Kappa honor society often gives back to the community throughout the year and this beautification event was well received.

Pictured: Phi Theta Kappa members Shaquana Heyward, Donna Rhodes, Marshalle Woodard, Alicia Ruffin, Evan Bryant, and Eric Carlton
Phi Theta Kappa & Carolinas Region Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Below is a list of upcoming dates and deadlines for Phi Theta Kappa and the Carolinas Region including dates up until the Carolinas Regional Convention in March. Check out the Phi Theta Kappa website at www.ptk.org to find additional information on all the items from Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters. Contact John Sharpe via e-mail at john.sharpe@hgtc.edu or Beth Carraway at beth.carraway@hgtc.edu for additional information on the Carolinas Region specific items and also watch this Phi Theta Kappa – Carolinas Region Facebook page for any updates or changes.

February 9 – 13, 2015
Phi Theta Kappa Awareness Week
(see www.ptk.org/awareness for information and a multitude of resources to use promoting Phi Theta Kappa on your campuses)

February 17, 2015
2015 Carolinas Regional Convention Hotel Reservation Deadline

February 20, 2015
2015 Carolinas Regional Convention Regular Registrations and Fees Due

February 20, 2015
Regional Officer Candidate Intent to Run Forms and Bios Due

February 20, 2015
Advisor Mosal and Marshall Award Applications Due

February 25, 2015
International Officer Candidate Applications Due

March 6, 2015
2015 Carolinas Regional Convention Late Registrations and Fees Due Note: No Registrations Accepted after this Date

March 20-22, 2015
2015 Carolinas Regional Convention
Cape Fear Community College – Downtown Campus and Hilton Wilmington Riverside