Another group who works behind the scenes to provide guidance and assistance is the Carolinas Region Advisory Board. The advisory board includes geographically diverse advisors from North and South Carolina. These individuals are:

**Rodney Powell**
Central Carolina Community College, Sanford, NC

**Mozell Rollerson**
Trident Technical College, Charleston, SC

**Stella Galyean**
Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock, NC

**Kathryn Amerson**
Craven Community College, New Bern, NC

**Peter Chiodo**
Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville, NC

**Janie Ivey**
Spartanburg Community College, Spartanburg, SC

**Pepe Zerda**
Alpha Omega Carolinas Region Alumni Association, Charleston, SC

Hello, everyone! My name is Beth Carraway and I am your new regional coordinator for the Carolinas Region! I’m excited to see what the future brings and hope you are, too. Your officers and I are here for you if you need us. I hope to see everyone in Mars Hill!!
Time to Reflect on the Success WE have accomplished so far
Thanking Teachers for Their Hard Work

A little appreciation makes a big difference. This year, members of the Alpha Xi Tau chapter decided to thank teachers for their hard work and dedication to education. To do so, they partnered with members of their Faculty Senate to create end-of-the-semester care packages for all fulltime and adjunct instructors at Surry Community College.

Focused on the theme of stress reduction, these care packages included a card of appreciation for the instructors as well as a variety of goodies:

- Color Me Calm (a stress reduction coloring booklet created by the Faculty Senate)
- Wine Vouchers for a bottle of Surry Cellars, an award-winning wine made by the college’s own Viticulture and Enology program
- Instant Hot Cocoa
- Chamomile Tea
- Chocolate and Peppermint candies
- Aspirin packets

Both senators and PTK members worked together to stuff the care packages and deliver them before the Faculty Appreciation luncheon, ending the semester with true and heartfelt thanks to the men and women who make their education possible.
The Journey of a thousand miles begins with a SINGLE STEP

Normally, the end of the fall semester is a time when chapters are wrapping up their projects and preparing to submit their PTK reports. Alpha Xi Lambda, however, was just beginning to rediscover itself. Our journey began over winter break when several members spent the day serving meals and giving gifts at a local homeless shelter. This experience showed us that we can make a positive impact in our community by showing up and working together.

When classes started back in the spring we knew we wanted to continue to serve and make a difference, but we needed to revitalize our chapter and get more members involved. Through conversations with each other and other members we discovered there were students in our school who were unable to accept their invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa because they couldn’t afford the membership fees. We put our heads together and launched a fundraiser to start a scholarship foundation. By raffling off a parking space near the library we were able to provide a scholarship to a fellow student at ATC that covered their membership fees. The raffle generated lots of buzz and excitement around the campus and people started reaching out asking how they could get involved. We will continue the raffle each semester and hope to be able to provide at least two scholarships a year.

In March, we went to the Carolinas Region Convention in Myrtle Beach and had a blast getting to know “fantastic” PTK members from around the region and discovering what they were up to. There, we had an opportunity to vote for and get to know our amazing regional officer team. The experience inspired us to want to do more - to be more.

~Aiken Technical College
“During the spring 2018 semester, the Alpha Eta Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Halifax Community College conducted a “Summer Donation Drive” for low income families in Halifax County, N.C. PTK members organized the drive and collected over two hundred items, including summer games and toys, fans, toiletries, books, clothing, bottled water, and much more. PTK members and advisors, Gary Redding and Dr. Rachel Stephens, donated the items to Halifax County’s Department of Social Services for distribution to local families.”
So far, 2018 has been a great year for Beta Sigma Phi. In January, despite the college being closed several days at the beginning of the semester due to snow and ice, we managed to hold meetings to finalize the write ups for our 2017 Honors in Action and College Project. We ended a quiet February by celebrating PTK Awareness Week with a pizza party and wearing our PTK gear all week, including “I Am PTK” pins and stickers that we gave out to members who attended meetings throughout the month.

In March, six of our members and both chapter advisors attended the Carolinas Region Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. While there, we enjoyed the Harry Potter theme, had wonderful opportunities for Fellowship (our favorite PTK tenet!) with so many of our amazing regional members, and we were honored to win a number of awards. We were very proud of our chapter President, Nicole Thompson, who was an Honorable Mention for Distinguished Chapter Officer, and who was inducted into the Carolinas Hall of Honor. We were also happy to receive two Paragon Awards for New Advisors—a first for both of our chapter advisors. Finally, we were especially excited to be named a Distinguished Chapter and as well as 4th Runner-up for Most Distinguished Chapter in the region.

After being delayed earlier in the month due to inclement weather, we finally held our induction ceremony on March 21st, where we formally inducted 90 members into our chapter. We continued a tradition started in 2017 by inviting the previous year’s Chapter President to be the guest speaker for the ceremony. Taking the time out of his busy schedule as a student now at Campbell University, Rogelio Salvador graced us with an inspiring speech in which he encouraged us to think of joining PTK as “being given a key to a room filled with a vast array of opportunities.” He went on to say that, to him, the most valuable part of being a member is “the opportunity to converge with other like-minded individuals that come from different backgrounds but have the same goal in mind: to be the best scholarly servant leader that one can possibly be.” With that in mind, new members then recited the Oath of Membership and were invited to enjoy complimentary food and, of course, Fellowship.
In April, we were thrilled to be able to attend Catalyst in Kansas City, Missouri. There, we got to explore Kansas City, learn a lot in the Educational Forums, and make many new friends. We were very proud of Chapter member and former Regional Vice President from North Carolina, Teresa Echeverria, who was part of the regional officer team that helped our region win one of the brand new Regional Awards for Excellence in Fellowship. We were also very excited to be named a Top 100 Chapter for the second time since in our chapter’s history.

The second half of the spring semester was devoted to discussing and deciding on our Theme for the Honors in Action Project for 2018; nominating and electing a new Chapter President (Daniel Painter) and Vice President (Paula Funes); and participating in Central Carolina Community College’s Spring Fest, where many of our members shared information about PTK with curious students and ran a lawn bowling activity. We are also happy to report that we set a new record in April for the highest number of members attending a chapter meeting.

This summer, we have begun the research phase of our Honors in Action Project, and we are excited to be sending several members to the Regional Honors Institute at Mars Hill University in July. We are looking forward the Fall semester and all of the opportunities for fellowship, leadership, scholarship, and service it will bring!

~Central Carolina Community College
On March 8, 2018, Alpha Epsilon Omicron received a generous donation from Kaitlin and her Girl Scout Troop 532. Kaitlin’s mother attends Trident Technical College and read about AEO’s campus grocery vault. Kaitlin, who at that time was an 8th grader at the School of the Arts in West Ashley, knew that Troop 532 needed a project to earn a Silver Award for community activities. Thus, Kaitlin and Troop 532 collected three boxes of food to donate. Kaitlin delivered the food donations to our grocery vault where she informed us that Troop 532 plans to continue donating food to AEO’s grocery vault annually.

More recently, AEO participated in training to become a Wellness Food Pantry with the Lowcountry Food Bank. Much information was received during training, and AEO is excited about implementing some new practices to benefit our consumers. For example, AEO hopes to assist its consumers to eat healthy by:

- Gently inquiring of any health concerns to facilitate eating healthier options,
- Using new signage provided by LFB to educate all volunteers and benefactors of ways to eat healthy,
- Strategically placing healthier food options (i.e. low sodium, less starchy vegetables) of the food we offer and encouraging those healthier options,
- Suggesting ways to make less healthier food healthier (yes, it is possible with some foods), and
- Displaying healthy recipes with the ingredients and photographs of the prepared meal.

AEO strives to provide fruits, vegetables, meat, grains, and dairy in accordance with the recommendations of the government website, ChooseMyPlate.gov. Please keep up with our wellness grocery vault on our Facebook page!
Improving Literacy One Book at a Time

Our chapter’s Honors in Action project involved the installation of two Lending Libraries in two locations in our community.

We sought to choose a project that accomplished a direct local action that would involve our membership’s research skills, physical abilities, leadership talents, and problem-solving skills. Our chapter chose this project to focus on Theme No. 2: Individualism & Collectivism. While social media has begun to bridge the gap in connecting individuals to the global community, there are fewer opportunities to do so locally in the “real” world. By installing our Lending Libraries, our chapter intentionally created a space where the individual could interact in a meaningful way with the community in a non-transactional model. By providing books, to the community in a shared space, we have helped create an area for uniting that can help transcend and enrich the traditional boundaries between the individual and the collective. By installing the two Lending Libraries, we were able to learn, as individuals, how to efficiently work as interlocking units to accomplish a goal to enrich our community and improve literacy rates. We learned how to translate a design from a concept to a finished, physical product. We learned to work within the frameworks of both public and private sector hierarchies to secure install locations that met criteria arrived at through the democratic process. We have further already heard reports from community members whose lives have been improved with unconditional access to free reading materials for themselves and their family members. This project gave our chapter the chance to build the individuals in our chapter through demonstrations of leadership and problem-solving skills and inspired a new-found confidence in each other and ourselves. We chose a project that inspired a passion for our community and its needs within our members, and we have built not one, but two Lending Libraries, that have a long-lasting impact; on our chapter, on our communities, and on ourselves.

~ Spartanburg Community College
The Future of the Carolinas Region…

Inductions

2018
We came home and inducted 53 new members, held two new member orientations, and elected our 2018-2019 officer team. We also met with administration to plan our College Project where we will be educating ourselves and one another about the importance of staying in school, the barriers to completion that students face, and what we can all do to help. This fall we are hosting a College Completion Week filled with fun activities and educational workshops and will ask students to take the pledge to complete their college education and ask the staff and faculty to pledge to support us in our journey.

Our chapter is breathing new life and it feels really good. See you all at Honors Institute in Mars Hill!

~Aiken Technical College
“After finishing my first semester at Horry-Georgetown Technical College last fall, I was elated to receive an invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. I knew immediately being a member of this remarkable organization would have a meaningful impact on my life. Filled with highly ambitious and successful college students and alumni worldwide, PTK has given me opportunities to meet likeminded individuals and to bask in the ambience of thriving scholars. In my time as a member of PTK, I have been overjoyed to meet so many outstanding people and to learn about their visions for change. Though the duration of my membership in Phi Theta Kappa has been short, I have already gained invaluable leadership and teamwork skills and experienced a surge of new knowledge.

Prior to my induction in the spring, I was notified that my chapter, Alpha Nu Sigma, was seeking new officers. With great interest, I volunteered to be Vice President of Fellowship. Much to my delight, I was officially elected into the position not too long after announcing my aspiration. Upon mingling with my fellow chapter members and receiving a medal during the induction ceremony to signify my new role as a PTK officer, I felt great pride in my decisions to join PTK and to run for a leadership position. In weeks following the spring induction ceremony, I forged great bonds with my fellow chapter officers through officer training sessions. These sessions consisted of many team building exercises. Two highlights of our time spent together in this manner included the amusing tasks of creating a human machine and conversing in guided discussions about peanut butter and dinosaurs. In addition to team
building exercises, we identified and defined important leadership qualities. We participated in a highly competitive and gripping game of Kahoot: PTK Trivia Edition as well. The mission of surviving an HIA Lightning Round practice session was also an extremely significant component of our training. It was during this time my peers and I found great enlightenment regarding differing world cultures and various social, environmental, political, and economic struggles across the globe. The final topics discussed during our officer training sessions were the upcoming International and Regional Honors Institutes. The subject of these occasions sparked immense eagerness and palpable enthusiasm from all individuals in attendance. I am pleased to write I will be participating in both of these events. I look forward to continuing my quest for erudition through Phi Theta Kappa and its many offerings. Additionally, I am excited to build further upon my leadership and teamwork skills, and to immerse myself in many future constructive, passionate, and intellectually-driven conversations with fellow members.

Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you soon at Villanova and/or Mars Hill!”

Shelly Sasser
Vice President of Fellowship
Alpha Nu Sigma
Horry-Georgetown Technical College

Taking the plunge to be different
In commemoration of our centennial year, Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter adopted the slogan “100 for 100”. The Chapter pledged that during this year, no less than 100 students will be inducted, and we are fast on our way to fulfill that goal. At our Spring Induction held on April 12, the Chapter inducted 66 new members, which makes it one of the largest Inductions in recent years. Our guest speaker was the Honorable Michael Morgan, Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, who congratulated the inductees for their achievement and also challenged them to continue to strive for excellence with every opportunity. Special music was rendered by the Wake Tech Chorus. A reception followed immediately afterwards where 200 invited guests enjoyed an assortment of hors d’oeuvres. Great plans are being made for our next Induction on November 19 (Founders’ Day) where we hope to not only meet our goal, but far surpass it.

At our regular meeting on April 18, the following officers were elected.

Tene Wilson-President

Jemin Park- Vice President of Northern Campus

Sabrina Lightfoot-Vice President of Perry Health Sciences Campus

Douglas Hill- Vice President of Southern Campus

Kenan Dew-Recording Secretary

Amber Lee-Publicity Secretary

Associate NC Supreme Court Justice Michael Morgan was the guest speaker of the 2018 Spring Induction.
On June 11, the advisors conducted the first of a two-part training for the new officers. This particular training concentrated on HIA and 5-Star Chapter level requirements. An additional training will be held on July 9 which will concentrate more on leadership and organization. Our Chapter also participated in two other important events this past semester, including the Carolinas Regional Conference held in Myrtle Beach during the week of March 9-11, and our College Project. Our College Project was helping students to alleviate stress during exam week. Tables were set up on both Northern and Southern Campuses with art supplies so that students could “draw and color their stress away.” It was very much enjoyed by those who participated.
Every two years the Alpha Omega Alumni Association of the Carolina’s Region elects new officers to lead the Dark Side. This year, after changing our bylaws and officer titles and positions, we elected five new officers for the 2018-2020 term.

Kristina Schurmann is our President, Michelle Pitts is our Vice President, Shenan Lee Higgins is our Communications Officer, Stella (Brown) Cobbs is our Financial Officer and Mel Pearson is our Fundraising Officer. Here is a little about us!

“My name is Kristina Schurmann. I am honored to serve as the 2018-2020 President of the Carolinas Region Alumni Association. I am excited to serve the Carolinas Region and Phi Theta Kappa again. I joined Phi Theta Kappa in 2010 at York Technical College in Rock Hill, SC as a part of the Alpha Alpha Iota chapter for four years. I also had the privilege to serve as the 2012-2013 Regional President. Phi Theta Kappa has been a major part of my life and I cannot wait to share my knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm with everyone! My hope is for our officer team to improve communication and increase the exposure of the Alumni while supporting the Regional Officer Team and the chapters of the Carolinas Region. I am excited for the opportunity and what Alpha Omega will accomplish in the next couple years.”

“My name is Michelle Pitts and it is an honor to have been nominated as the Vice President of Alpha Omega. Currently I am working as a Title 1 assistant and attending Southern New Hampshire University to get my degree in psychology with a specialization in children and adolescents. My love for children and working with those in need has given me a strong direction towards social work and special needs education. In my free time I crochet, garden, and craft.”
“My name is Stella (Brown) Cobbs, Columbia South Carolina by way of New Jersey. I am proud and honored to serve as the Alpha Omega Alumni 2018-2020 Financial Officer. I was accepted into this wonderful society in 2015 in the Beta Rho Gamma Chapter at ECPI University. I also served as Chapter President from 2015-2017. I received my AAS in Network Security and BS in Network Cybersecurity both from ECPI University. I am continuing my studies at Walden University working toward my master in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. I am so excited and honored to be of service to the Carolinas Region Phi Theta Kappa. I hope to be an enthusiastic example and guidance to all the up and coming Kappans. I will always be PTK.”

“I am Shenan Lee Higgins and I am so excited to serve as the 2018-2020 Communications Officer of the Carolinas Region Alumni Association. As my first regional role, I am honored to work with my fellow alum to take communication within the Carolinas Region Alumni to a new level. Originally a Beta Zeta Theta member from Johnston Community College in Smithfield, NC, I spent my five years there serving as Public Relations Officer, President, and Vice President. While at JCC, my officer team grew BZT from a 1 Star to a 5 Star Chapter in years. It is my goal to bring that same drive and passion to the Alumni Association and to continue to serve the Carolinas Region. Through the support of my fellow Kappans, my advisors, and my mentors, I have grown in so many ways. I’ve accomplished things I never would have dreamed of, and in serving the Carolinas Region for the next two years, I hope to share the knowledge I have gained and to give back in any way that I can. Here’s to the future of Phi Theta Kappa, the Carolinas Region, and Alpha Omega! I am still PTK!

“My name is Mel Pearson, I am so excited and honored to be the 2018-2020 Fundraising Officer for Alpha Omega. I started my wonderful journey into Phi Theta Kappa in 2012, in the Beta Epsilon Chi Chapter at James Sprunt Community College. I served as the Chapter President as well as all the other positions at the same time during my time there. I was able to single handedly bring Beta Epsilon Chi from a 1 Star Chapter to a 5 Star Chapter in one year. Phi Theta Kappa changed my life in more ways than one and I am so excited to be able to help guide and lead others the way I was. I am currently continuing my studies at Strayer University, where I am pursuing a BS in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management. I look forward to what our Officer Team can accomplish in the coming years, and even though I live in Tennessee, the Carolinas Region will always have my heart.”
This past March the Alpha Omega Alumni Association held a “Dobby’s Socks” charity at our annual Hallmark Awards event. The Harry Potter themed weekend brought much fellowship as well as service when we collected over 400 pairs of socks for homeless men, women, and children from the Carolinas Region. These socks were distributed to Haven in Lees County North Carolina and the Atheist Alliance Helping the Homeless in Spartanburg Count, South Carolina. We were very proud of our Region for stepping up and helping the helpless. We hope that we will continue to see such a turn out in our future charitable endeavors.

Our Alums are Awesome!!!! Get to know each one of them a little more!
WHERE IS MR. ROOSEVELT???

The universe has mysterious ways of giving us opportunities to meet new people. You may remember our journey back in May, when unexpectedly we met the most kindred spirit who also happens to be an alumni. Well we wanted to give you the full story here of how we found Mr. Roosevelt!

This man right here, as nice as can be, graduated as a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Student some years ago...

Stephanie Hable and Haile Murray could not sleep. So downstairs they traveled when they ran into Mr. Roosevelt Whitehead once again. Divulging deeper into his story, his face lit up at the mention of Phi Theta Kappa, giving off that happy glow. While giving them more background on his experience and what life was like during his college years he shared that the previous day he attempted to find his Phi Theta Kappa membership pin, so that he would be able to wear it that evening to show them, unfortunately his search turned up empty...The girls went upstairs to see if they had their membership pin(s) with them, but unfortunately they too came up short. Thinking about what they could give him, Stephanie Hable noticed her 100 year pin! LIGHT BULB!!!!!! They rushed downstairs as fast as the elevator could carry them, once arriving at the front desk this is what they did...

“We explained our appreciation for him telling us about himself and his love for Phi Theta Kappa! He was speechless and excited. He is going to Church tomorrow to show everyone☺️” – Stephanie & Haile

Beth heard about the adventures of these two ladies and wanted to take a share so she purchased Mr. Roosevelt a NEW MEMBERSHIP PIN! George will be hand delivering the pin to him! A special thanks to Jason for capturing our first encounter!

Remember Everyone, PTK leaves a lasting impression! We thank you Mr. Roosevelt! PS: He was from North Community College, 1988. #WeArePTK #HeisPTK #RediscoveringAlums #PTK
What the Regional Team loves about Phi Theta Kappa

“What I love most about Phi Theta Kappa is the opportunity it affords for members. It offers us a chance to be more than we believed, do more than we thought possible, and serve others in endless ways. The whole is so much more than the sum of our parts and for many of us, joining Phi Theta Kappa changed our lives. Advisors are the backbone of this organization and always have been. I cherish the time spent with my advisor and the lifelong friendship we’ve enjoyed. I also cherish being friends with and influenced by all the previous Carolinas Regional Coordinators.”

~ Beth Carolinas Regional Coordinator

“I have been a Phi Theta Kappan for a little over a year! In a year, I have discovered more about myself through Phi Theta Kappa than my actual 27 years on earth. Back in March, I was elected as your Regional President. That day was one of the proudest moments of my life! Since then, I have worked alongside with this team of Regional Officers and have never been more proud than I am now. We quickly came together and started to work on several new ideas and projects to enhance everyone’s skills and to overall help everyone in the Region succeed at everything they put their heart into. I encourage you all to jump in and share your passion with us!!!!! I did, and it was the best decision of my life! I am proud to be your Regional President.”

~ Stephanie Carolinas Regional President

“I have been involved with Phi Theta Kappa for a little over a year now, and it has been the most significant experience of my life. For years I wondered what was missing in my life, and when I joined Phi Theta Kappa I was transformed; I was inspired. Phi Theta kappa rewards me with opportunities to acknowledge, assess, and achieve the changes I need, to grow into the man I want to be.”

~ Jason Vice President of South Carolina
What the Regional Team loves about Phi Theta Kappa

"I am quite proud to be a part of this elite association with fellow brilliant minds! Since I joined Phi Theta Kappa and became a Regional Officer, I have met some amazing friends, traveled to places I have never been, and many awesome, impromptu experiences. I have learned great lessons of what it means to be a part of a team; what it means to honorably serve and how important it is to seek to rectify enduring issues that are not only just locally or nationally but to employ a global perspective. I seek to live my life by the quote, "Life’s most urgent question is what are you doing for others?" Life is more fulfilled being a Kappan!" #CROSS18

~ George Vice President of North Carolina

"Being new to Phi Theta Kappa I have already learned so much about myself and an organization that creates leaders that stand out from the masses. Taking on the Competitive Edge which is a self-paced action plan, I have learned so much about research and corporate etiquette. Also, being able to volunteer and change the lives of those we touch is something I can’t begin to explain how it has affected me personally. My experience as your Regional Secretary has already made this year one I won’t ever forget!" #CROSS18

~ Haile Carolinas Regional Secretary

Phi Theta Kappa allows us Nerds to be the cool kids at the table while also having fun doing it. Taking adventures and becoming more appealable to the workforce. This organization not only prepares us for our future careers, it also significantly prepares us for a successful life by teaching us necessary leadership skills. But most importantly, Phi Theta Kappa teach us to serve and value others before ourselves!

~ CROSS18 Team