

## **Penn State Altoona C812 Alpha Epsilon Pi**

**Submitted by Barbara Hong, Counselor**



### **History and Heritage**

#### **Why was your chapter started at your college/university?**

Our chapter was started to recognize the outstanding achievements of our pre-service teachers and to extend our acknowledgement of exceptional educators and administrators in our community.

#### **Since your chapter was started, how has it made an impact on the education department at your college/university?**

Since our chapter has started two years ago, we have recruited the chancellor, academic dean, division head, education faculty, and even non-education faculty (from engineering to psychology to biology) to become members of KDP. Such recruitment has helped raised important discussions on how to improve our teacher education programs as well as provided opportunities for collaboration with interdisciplinary faculty as well as community leaders. Our chapter has also been asked to sponsor many events on campus across disciplines. With KDP on our campus, the education department is now more recognized as an influential leader in the community and amongst institutional administrators.

### **Leadership and Membership**

#### **Which core values mean the most to your chapter? How does your chapter demonstrate this value?**

The three core values our chapter holds are: Leadership, Scholarship, Service. In every event, we emphasize our core values to order to help our pre-service teachers develop these qualities before they enter the field. The chapter strongly encourages members to be accountable for their own individual improvement in developing these critical values by volunteering in the community. For example, we have members who baked goods at their own expenses to support teachers in buying books for the classroom in order to demonstrate the value of Service. We also have members who volunteered to help kids with homework after school.

Our chapter has sponsored the Distinguished Speaker Series to promote the Scholarship value of continual learning. Likewise, we provide opportunities for members to develop Leadership skills by having them take on roles as committee chairs and directors.

#### **Who has been integral in the success of your chapter?**

All the administrators on our campus, especially our division head, have been very supportive toward our chapter. For example, our chancellor wrote each newly initiated member a letter of congratulation. Also, our division head always fund the food and even travels for KDP related events. We never need to worry about any event planning because we know they always have our backs.

### **Programming**

#### **How has your chapter contributed to the community?**

Our chapter has been an integral part of the Second Miles reading event as well as volunteering at the Gloria Gates Foundation, an after-school tutoring place for children. We also volunteered at the HeadStart program during Literacy Alive! and sponsored an Animal Shelter fundraising event.

#### **Does your chapter facilitate any unique or signature events?**

Yes, our chapter sponsors the annual Distinguished Speaker Series as well as the Teacher Learning Consortium.