



INTRODUCING KDP'S NEW CHAPTER OFFICER POSITION

Members of the Public Policy Committee worked to create a new officer position that is now available.

As the committee continues to work to spread awareness and educate KDP members on issues that affect them and their students, they are realizing the many ways that our strong network of chapter and student leaders can participate. This has led to the creation of a designated officer role called the Chapter Advocacy Officer.

The Chapter Advocacy Officer will help teach chapter members about education-related policy, show members how to advocate for the profession, and prepare members to lead through advocacy as they enter their classrooms. We encourage you to identify a member that can help bring advocacy into your chapter.

Chapter Advocacy Officer

Position Description

1. Teach chapter members about education-related policy at the local, state, and national levels.
2. Teach members how to advocate for the education profession.
3. Provide opportunities for members to advocate.
4. Liaison with the KDP Public Policy Committee.

Rationale for the Position

Teachers are leaders who are responsible for guiding children in the classroom and helping them to learn. Teachers also lead outside the classroom. They assume additional responsibilities in the school, the community, and the profession for the betterment of children. One way that teachers can lead is to participate in advocacy-related activities. Standards that pertain to advocacy have been developed for beginning teachers. For example, InTASC Standard 10(k) states, "The teacher takes on leadership roles at the school, district, state, and/or national level and advocates for learners, the school, the community, and the profession."

Guidelines for the Position

Teachers are public servants who work on behalf of the community to educate students. Because school districts pay teachers' salaries with taxes collected from the citizens in the community, teachers are viewed as governmental employees and must follow certain guidelines.

University and School District's Guidelines: Chapter Advocacy Officers should adhere to the guidelines for political activity established by their university or school district. A common guideline prohibits educators from using the institution's equipment, such as computers, copy machines, and email servers for political purposes. Seek advice from your KDP Chapter Counselor and your institution's administrators.

State Guidelines: Chapter Advocacy Officers should behave in an ethical way, as outlined in your state's Code of Ethics for Educators. In general, Chapter Advocacy Officers should not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political, professional, or citizenship rights and responsibilities. Seek advice from your KDP Chapter Counselor.

Kappa Delta Pi Guidelines: Chapter Advocacy Officers should conduct themselves in accordance with the KDP Society Handbook. According to Section 1, Section 3, "No substantial part of the activities of Kappa Delta Pi shall be the carrying on of propaganda, and the Society shall not participate or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statement) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office." In other words, KDP is a 501(c)(3) organization that is required to follow legal guidelines established by the government of the United States. Seek advice from your KDP Chapter Counselor and your Regional Chapter Coordinator at KDP Headquarters.

Possible Activities Aligned to the Position

1. Teach chapter members about education-related policy at the local, state, and national levels.
Possible Activities:
 - a. Search print or electronic media for information about current education-related issues, and share this information with other members during a chapter meeting.
 - b. Provide chapter members with legislative updates in the field of education.
 - c. Share with chapter members some information about educational issues at the local and state levels, and the impact of these issues on classroom teachers.
 - d. Link online education-related news articles to your chapter's social media sites.

2. Teach members how to advocate for the education profession.
Possible activities:
 - a. Share advocacy-related handouts and resource materials posted on the KDP Public Policy Committee's webpage.
 - b. Listen to an advocacy-related webinar during a chapter meeting. The webinars are posted in the calendar of events at <http://www.kdp.org/events/webinars.php>.

3. Provide opportunities for members to advocate. (Follow the guidelines regarding political endorsements and activities that your university or school district has established.)
Possible activities:
 - a. Encourage chapter members to register to vote.
 - b. Determine the dates for the next election and encourage chapter members to vote. Election dates and candidates' descriptions can be found on websites such as Ballotpedia.org, League of Women's Voters, or your state's Secretary of State.
 - c. Encourage your chapter members to email their legislators and inquire about their positions on a policy issue in education, such as teacher preparation, standardized testing, school funding, and others.
 - d. Invite a local, state, or national legislator to speak at a chapter meeting or a chapter initiation ceremony. (First, coordinate with the governmental liaison at your university. Your university has guidelines for inviting legislators to campus.)
 - e. Attend a local school board meeting as a chapter and share what you learned with other chapter members who were unable to attend.
 - f. Attend a town hall meeting hosted by your local, state, or national representative and share what you learned with other chapter members who were unable to attend.
 - g. Volunteer to serve on a committee in a local school, in a local school district, or at your university.
 - h. Ask an administrator from your institution to present a workshop at a chapter meeting on the political nature of teaching. The presenter can share guidelines for what teachers can and cannot do in terms of advocacy.
 - i. Participate in the KDP Public Policy Committee's national advocacy efforts.

4. Liaison with the KDP Public Policy Committee.
Possible activities:
 - a. Share your chapter's advocacy efforts by posting information on the KDP Public Policy's community area on KDP Global.
 - b. Participate in scheduled monthly conference calls with the KDP Public Policy Committee.
 - c. Attend the workshops sponsored by the KDP Public Policy Committee at Convocation.
 - d. Contact the member of the KDP Public Policy Committee who lives near you and share your chapter's advocacy efforts.
 - e. Receive individual mentoring in the area of advocacy by a member of the KDP Public Policy Committee.

If you have questions, please email Dr. Clinton Smith (csmit279@utm.edu), Chair of the KDP Public Policy Committee or reach out to your KDP Regional Chapter Coordinator.