Phitheta Kappa Foundation

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Commit to Complete:
Supporting Student Success

Dr. E. Ann McGee, President of Seminole State College of Florida
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In last year’s issue of Visionary I described Phi Theta Kappa’s unprecedented “Call to Action.” For the first time in community college history, Phi Theta Kappa joined with the six major higher education organizations serving community colleges for the common purpose of increasing credential and degree completion at community colleges. We are answering President Barack Obama’s call for an additional 5 million students to complete community college credentials and degrees on the heels of a historic White House Summit for Community Colleges.

As a result, Phi Theta Kappa developed the Community College Completion Corps, or “C4,” with our members at community colleges around the world forming an army of scholars committed to college completion — promoting the benefits of completing a credential/degree and the consequences of not. Students are learning how to address barriers to earning credentials/degrees, hosting innovative public “commitment to complete” signing events, and serving as mentors to students at risk of dropping out.

Our efforts have garnered unprecedented attention from the media and educational and community leaders — C4 has been featured in The Chronicle of Education, the Community College Journal, Inside Higher Ed, Diverse Magazine, and the Community College Times in addition to numerous local, national and international news outlets.

This past year, I have spoken at several college convocations and C4 Commit to Complete pledge-signing events on campuses from Michigan to Texas to Idaho and beyond. In October, I participated in and facilitated group discussion at the Association of Community College Trustees’ (ACCT) Completion Summit, where C4 was recommended in a newly released American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) research brief as a strategy to increase college completion.

Additionally, I served as the keynote speaker for the annual conference of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and the National Council for Student Development (NCSD). At both conferences a team of Phi Theta Kappa staff members and one of our student International Officers also presented C4. NCSD recognized C4 as a winner of the Obanion Shared Journey Exemplary Award for demonstration of exemplary practices furthering student development in community colleges. During the fall, I presented the C4 program to the AACC Board of Directors and lastly to the Academic, Student, and Community Development Commission during the AACC Fall Commission meetings. In a spontaneous action, Commission members voted unanimously to endorse Phi Theta Kappa’s completion programs — a first for the Commission and for Phi Theta Kappa.

And probably the most exciting news — Phi Theta Kappa received a grant of nearly $3 million to expand our online platform CollegeFish.org — a tool that could significantly increase both community college completion and senior college transfer rates.

Yet, our work is far from done. Take a look at the projections at right regarding future higher education needs. Increasingly we learn that in addition to credentials, “soft skills” will be essential for employability: communication, collaborating in teams, critical thinking, and problem solving — all skills taught by Phi Theta Kappa programs.

In January we learned that Phi Theta Kappa received the American College Personnel Association Commission for Student Development Award for Best Use of Technology for our combined completion initiatives — C4, CollegeFish.org and Competitive Edge, our self-paced professional development program to help members build soft skills. The bottom line: Phi Theta Kappa stands uniquely equipped to prepare our students to succeed in the future.

In summary, great things are happening for Phi Theta Kappa and the cause of completion. Our mission continues to be validated and is more vital than ever. We must continue to push for credential completion and student success. From Washington, D.C., to your state and community colleges in your neighborhood, we are having a big impact on higher education. Come and join us as we pave the way.
“Every profession is based on both skills and metaskills. Skills are the activities people have to perform well that are job-specific. Metaskills are higher-order skills that enable workers to use their skills effectively. Metaskills – such as critical thinking – are what make the skills effective. Without metaskills, skills are like a hammer in the hands of a child.”

Dr. Gerald Grow, Journalism Professor

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**Future Higher Education Needs**

**Percentage of United States citizens with higher education credentials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rank in the world</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2011</td>
<td>#1 in the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>#12 in the world</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

**Percentage of jobs that require a college credential**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of jobs requiring a college credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2020: Equal percentage of jobs will require a bachelor degree as an associate degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2008-2018: Expected job growth percentages for degree holders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Edward Gordon, author of *Winning the Global Talent Showdown*

**Dr. Rod A. Risley, Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director**
Dr. E. Ann McGee Shows Her Passion for Student Success

At the start of each school year, President E. Ann McGee likes to drive to all four campuses of Seminole State College of Florida and watch the new students. “They may be wet behind the ears, and some of them have a deer-in-the-headlights look,” she says, “but the promise is there.”

Dr. McGee knows all about the promise of student success. During her 15 years as Seminole’s president, she has guided hundreds of students to achieve great things. Seminole claims six Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Scholarship winners, more than any other college in the nation. And, the college has produced a long string of other scholarship competition winners, including those sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa: the All-USA Community College Academic Team, Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team, Guistwhite Scholars and Leaders of Promise.

Dr. McGee acknowledges the role Phi Theta Kappa plays in student success from a personal perspective. She is a graduate of St. Petersburg College, where she was inducted into the Tau Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Her own experiences made her passionate about community colleges and about Phi Theta Kappa. “Getting involved in student activities was a defining moment for me,” Dr. McGee says. She was a Phi Theta Kappa chapter officer, class president and St. Petersburg’s Most Outstanding Graduate.

“Phi Theta Kappa taught me to value fellowship and leadership, and also how to relate to people, all lessons I have used my entire life. As a member, I appreciated Phi Theta Kappa and the opportunities the Society gave me; as an advisor at my first teaching job at Florida Keys Community College, I became a champion for Phi Theta Kappa. Phi Theta Kappa is all about student success, showing students how to be the best they can be.”

Dr. McGee received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Florida State University, where she was named to Phi Beta Kappa. Her doctorate in Higher Education is from Nova Southeastern University.

As Seminole’s president, she has continued to support her local Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Alpha Theta Nu, the Florida Region, and Phi Theta Kappa’s international initiatives, especially the Community College Completion Corps. Dr. McGee is a recipient of the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, and serves on the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

Well-known as a leader in higher education and in community development, Dr. McGee has served on the American Association of Community Colleges’ Presidents Academy Executive Committee, and was named the top community college CEO in the nation by the Association of Community College Trustees. A 2012 Fulbright Scholar, Dr. McGee is working with Russian higher education leaders to examine the feasibility and possible impact of a community college system there.

Why does she believe securing financial support for Phi Theta Kappa is vitally important?

“Phi Theta Kappa is an association of learners and achievers. I believe Phi Theta Kappa will be largely responsible for the success of the completion agenda,” she said.

“This is the best time in history for community colleges. We are in the national spotlight and we are being held accountable. Phi Theta Kappa is raising the bar in terms of what students expect from their colleges, and what colleges should expect from their students.”

There are many ways to give back to Phi Theta Kappa – including a donation to the new Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship program, created to assist community college students facing unanticipated and severe financial barriers to complete a college credential. Please consider contributing to this endowment by visiting ptkfoundation.org or contacting Dr. Nancy Rieves, Executive Director, at 800.946.9995, Ext 3537, or at nancy.rieves@ptk.org.
“Donor support is more important than ever before. We must show donors how they are making a difference and how their contributions are funding student success.”

Dr. E. Ann McGee, President of Seminole State College of Florida

Phi Theta Kappa members (left) Juan Robayo and (right) Crystal Williams, 2012 graduates from Seminole State College, are pictured with Dr. McGee. Robayo and Williams wear the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Stole and Honors Cord. Additionally, Robayo wears the 2011 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar Medal, All-USA Florida Academic Team Medal, Seminole State College Honors Diploma medallion, and Seminole State College Science Merit Diploma medallion.
“When I see the Community College Completion Corps events Phi Theta Kappa chapters are doing I am more than impressed – I’ve read about their efforts and it’s remarkable to see their energy and commitment. This effort is reaching all over the country. It makes me proud to see the wonderful things that are happening.”

Dr. Walter Bumphus, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, member of Phi Theta Kappa’s Board of Directors
In April, 2011, Dr. Walter Bumphus addressed the American Association of Community Colleges as its new President during an unprecedented time for community colleges in the nation’s spotlight. The reality was not lost on him that this historic convention was taking place in New Orleans — a city that six years ago stood under a 20-foot storm surge from Hurricane Katrina. At the time he was serving as Chancellor of the Louisiana Community and Technical College system, facing the greatest leadership challenge of his life. He was left uniquely qualified to lead the nation’s community colleges into the future. While daunting at times, the economic tests of today now seemed less tempestuous by comparison.

“Each day now most of us confront a serious mismatch between what community colleges are asked to do and the resources they are provided,” Dr. Bumphus told his audience. “Because money is short — and for many other good reasons — students are streaming through our doors. As President Obama and many others realize, young and diverse Americans are the nation’s greatest natural asset — and it is our job to lead and even push them to success.”

“Phi Theta Kappa has found a strong partner at AACC in Dr. Walter Bumphus,” said Phi Theta Kappa’s Executive Director, Dr. Rod Risley. “His experience is unmatched. He has a passion for community colleges, and he is a champion for credential completion.”

Dr. Bumphus said the Call to Action and the Community College Completion Challenge are among the first major initiatives he’s become involved with since beginning his tenure. “Probably more than ever Phi Theta Kappa has been instrumental in moving the needle in the student success discussion. Dr. Rod Risley is a great leader — he has helped lead the conversation regarding the need to complete,” Dr. Bumphus said.

As AACC President, he has his own thoughts regarding the need for community college students to earn credentials. “There has been a lot of research regarding the earning capacity of students with degrees. So often now students with only high school degrees most likely won’t be able to get out of poverty,” he explained. “When you look at advertisements for good jobs they all require some type of credential. The advertisements don’t say ‘some college.’ They look to see if you can finish what you start. This is what determines your value in the marketplace.”

Dr. Bumphus said he was glad he was urged to complete his college education. “There wasn’t a community college in Princeton, Kentucky, where I grew up, but I had a mother and a grandmother who pushed me to leave a small town with few opportunities for African Americans and move an hour south to enter college at Murray State University,” he said. “With their force of will supporting me, I was able to walk through my access door, carrying the old suitcase and the $5 bill my grandmother gave me to make the journey. Similarly, it was their breaths hot on the back of my neck that pushed me through the completion door and made me the first member of my family to graduate from college.”

“I want to tell others that when you complete, it will have a ripple effect throughout your family,” Dr. Bumphus said. “I encourage students to continue to dream and back it up with hard work. You will have an impact.”

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Phi Theta Kappa Creates Student-Led Initiative to Boost Credential Holders

The Community College Completion Corps (C4) was created by Phi Theta Kappa in 2010 in an effort to boost college credential holders by 5 million by 2020. Learn more about C4 at cccompletioncorps.org. Community college students need your support to complete their degrees and help our country reach this goal. Learn about how you can make this dream a reality with a donation to the new Lifeline to Completion Scholarship at ptkfoundation.org/lifeline-to-completion. Created by benefactors Lou and Rosemary Oberndorf in partnership with the 2011-2012 International Officers, these scholarships will assist students facing barriers to completing their degrees.
Mary and Duane Hood: A Legacy of Encouraging College Completion Continues

For years she was the embodiment of Phi Theta Kappa in Texas. Small in stature and large in heart, Mary Hood was overflowing with personality, wit and dedication – especially to community college students and Phi Theta Kappa members. Always at her side was her husband Duane, a Phi Theta Kappa alumnus. Together they forged a tradition of service that Duane is now continuing alone. Mary died in the spring of 2011, but her presence is still felt in the Society she loved, and that loved her in return.

Phi Theta Kappa will honor Mary at the 2012 Annual Convention, and will announce the establishment of the Mary Hood Leaders of Promise Scholarship of $1,000, which will be presented annually to a member from the Texas Region. The scholarship is a fitting tribute to a leader whose professional life was dedicated to student success.

Mary and Duane met as students at East Texas State University, now Texas A&M University-Commerce. They began dating in December of 1962, and married the following July. In 1971, they moved with their young twin daughters Deanne and Denise to Snyder, Texas, to join the faculty of the new Western Texas College.

Duane valued his experience as a Phi Theta Kappa member at Trinity Valley Community College, and as Administrator of Student Services at Western Texas College, he led efforts to charter the Psi Zeta Chapter in 1972. A year later Mary became advisor, and for the next 38 years Mary and Duane were closely associated with Phi Theta Kappa on the chapter, regional and international levels.

Over the years the Psi Zeta Chapter collected numerous awards, and both Mary and Duane were recognized for their service as advisors. Both served as officers in the Association of Chapter Advisors. When Mary became Texas Regional Coordinator in 1993, Duane worked with her and shared her pride as the region chalked up a record 15 Distinguished Region Awards, hosted four Annual Conventions and produced innumerable International Officers and Society scholarship recipients. Mary was elected Regional Coordinator Representative to the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors in 2007, and was serving her second term at the time of her death.

Mary was also a pioneer in promoting college completion, long before this initiative captured the attention of the higher education community. “Mary started the STAR Scholarships to help Texas members complete their associate degrees,” Duane said of the scholarships that now bear her name. Both Mary and Duane were proud to have a leadership scholarship for Western Texas College students named in their honor; Texas A&M University-Commerce also offers the Mary L. Hood Graduate Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship.

Duane, now retired, assisted the Texas Region with their transition to new leadership, and will stay involved. He is the recipient of the 2012 Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award.

“Phi Theta Kappa has always been focused on college completion,” said Duane. “Membership is a real source of pride to students and motivates them to achieve more. Chapter members help each other overcome challenges like financial need and family responsibilities. Phi Theta Kappa emphasizes leadership and service, to prepare students to be competitive for jobs and for life after college.”

“Mary knew the benefits that Phi Theta Kappa offers. Her legacy will be her pride in her students and her dedication to their success.”

To make a donation to the Leaders of Promise Scholarship Endowment or the Mary Hood Leaders of Promise Scholarship Endowment for the Texas Region, visit ptkfoundation.org or contact Dr. Nancy Rieves, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, at 800.946.9995, Ext 3537, or email nancy.rieves@ptk.org.
“Dr. Mary Hood was one of the leaders who helped shape the Phi Theta Kappa of today. Together, she and Phi Theta Kappa changed the lives of thousands of students.”

Dr. Rod A. Risley, Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director
“CollegeFish.org, developed by Phi Theta Kappa, is an invaluable and innovative tool for our colleges and their students to increase degree completion and transfer rates. Now, more than ever, community colleges serve as a pathway for students to complete a baccalaureate degree. CollegeFish.org is one of those timely innovations that will help our colleges successfully meet the challenge of doubling the number of Americans earning a higher education credential or degree by 2020.”

Dr. Walter Bumphus, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges and a member of Phi Theta Kappa’s Board of Directors
Phi Theta Kappa Receives Grant to Boost Completion and Transfer Rates
Support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Expand CollegeFish.org

In 2011 the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded Phi Theta Kappa its largest single grant in the Society’s history, nearly $3 million. The grant will provide funding to launch the program in community colleges in five target states. Grant funds will be paid out over two years.

“We are enormously grateful for this vote of confidence in our organization and CollegeFish.org from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,” said Phi Theta Kappa’s Executive Director, Dr. Rod A. Risley, “These grant funds will allow us to open up CollegeFish.org enrollment to all students attending community colleges in five pilot states of Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, and Washington.”

“Since 1918, Phi Theta Kappa has encouraged and recognized the academic achievement of students pursuing completion of associate degrees. Central to Phi Theta Kappa’s mission is providing innovative programs and services that lead students to engage in proven educational practices that result in higher learning and student success,” Dr. Risley said. “CollegeFish.org was designed as a multifaceted tool to help community college students understand the value and process of completing a credential or degree and planning for successful transfer to senior colleges. At the same time CollegeFish.org aids community colleges in reaching their goals of increasing student persistence, graduation and transfer rates to senior colleges; and assists senior colleges to effectively identify, advise and recruit community college transfer students.”

The Phi Theta Kappa Foundation received support from the Gates Foundation to further enhance CollegeFish.org by institutionalizing use of the transfer tool in five pilot states. Statewide conferences to be held for participants during the summer of 2012 will share best practices for college completion and transfer preparation. Dr. Risley explained that successful fulfillment of the grant project would lead to expanded roll-out in additional states.

Dr. Risley stressed that CollegeFish.org will bring value to these states’ current efforts toward college completion as transfer to senior colleges has become a public policy priority.

“As community colleges’ enrollments surge to record levels, these colleges must provide more for more students, but with less money. Community colleges are experiencing severe funding cutbacks due to the current economic downturn. The decrease in funding and increase in number of students they serve are preventing community colleges from providing adequate advisement resources to help students complete credentials/degrees and plan for transfer to senior colleges,” Dr. Risley explained. “Findings from the Community College Survey on Student Engagement (CCSSE) reflect that prior to the economic downturn and enrollment surge, less than one third of community college students actually spoke to an advisement counselor. The percentage of students receiving essential advisement and support for college completion is even less today, thus CollegeFish.org is meeting a critical need in regard to degree completion at a time in our economy when credentials are often essential for jobs.”

The grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide resources to:
• Implement CollegeFish.org as a transfer tool at 125 community colleges and 50 senior colleges in five pilot states
• Improve functionality of the CollegeFish.org website for student users
• Provide tools for monitoring student progress toward community college completion
• Increase effectiveness of tools used by senior colleges to advise and recruit community college transfer students
• Develop instructional guides for participant colleges
• Host statewide implementation conferences in each pilot state
• Provide follow-up technical support for selected CollegeFish.org campuses
Meira and Marvin Langsam Believe in Phi Theta Kappa

Giving back, paying it forward, making a difference: most people can cite a particular time or event that influenced their decisions to serve and their paths of service. Phi Theta Kappa Foundation supporters Meira and Marvin Langsam are the exceptions. Both have been helping others their entire professional lives.

Marvin taught at Miami-Dade College for 30 years, as a professor of psychology, director of the Honors Program and advisor of the college’s trail-blazing Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Mu Epsilon.

During Marvin’s years as an advisor, the chapter won numerous awards, saw members elected to national office, and developed programs later adapted for international use, including sister chapters and regional honors institutes. More importantly, by motivating, pushing, shoving, doing whatever it took, Marvin inspired a legion of students to earn the grades to join Phi Theta Kappa, to stay in school, complete their degrees, transfer and consistently aim for success.

Although he never attended a community college prior to becoming a chapter advisor, Marvin enrolled in classes at Miami-Dade for the sole purpose of achieving full membership in Phi Theta Kappa for himself. For his dedication, he received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 2010.

Meira was attending Central Florida Community College and was a member of the Kappa Nu Chapter when she and Marvin met at a Phi Theta Kappa conference. They were married in 1993. Meira completed her business degree at Florida Atlantic University, receiving a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship and later was employed at Miami-Dade, serving as co-advisor for Mu Epsilon.

While they are no longer associated with Miami-Dade College, they remain very involved in Phi Theta Kappa, supporting the Society financially, volunteering at Annual Conventions, and continuing to network with members and friends.

“The Phi Theta Kappa world is unique,” said Marvin. “Through Phi Theta Kappa I developed relationships and friendships beyond any organization I have ever been involved with – it’s really a family.”

“Phi Theta Kappa fills a genuine need for community college students,” Meira said. “Students often lack family support and face economic hardships, so Phi Theta Kappa fills the gaps that family cannot fill, especially for minority, first-generation, and other non-traditional students. Often people get to college, but are naïve, unsophisticated, and have low expectations. Phi Theta Kappa validates their ability to succeed and gives them connections they did not have. Phi Theta Kappa helps them prepare for the world.”

“When members participate in Phi Theta Kappa programs – planning campaigns, hosting Conventions and regional meetings, developing an Honors in Action project – they are learning practical lessons, the nuts and bolts of what it takes to succeed,” Marvin said.

“The payoff is that involvement in Phi Theta Kappa gives you something you can use throughout life such as support, job skills, and scholarships,” Meira added.

Both Langsams are supporting Phi Theta Kappa’s Community College Completion Corps. Marvin commented “Program completion shows desire to set worthwhile goals and work tirelessly to meet them. We’re very pleased that Phi Theta Kappa is addressing this critical issue so enthusiastically.”

For information on the ways you can leave a legacy for Phi Theta Kappa members in the future, please contact Dr. Nancy Rieves, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, at 601-984-3537, Nancy.Rieves@ptk.org, or visit ptkfoundation.org.
“Anyone who feels that Phi Theta Kappa has made a positive difference in their lives needs to remember Phi Theta Kappa, both now, and in their long-term planning. Every bit of support that you provide to Phi Theta Kappa ultimately improves someone’s life.”

Meira and Marvin Langsam
“As Mr. Lanier and his aunt have touched the lives of those around them through their support of education, this scholarship will help Ohio continue to nurture servant leaders. We are thrilled Mr. Lanier has chosen the Ohio Region of Phi Theta Kappa for this wonderful gift.”

Cindy Carbone, Dean of Arts and Sciences at Central Ohio Technical College, Phi Theta Kappa Ohio Regional Coordinator and Board of Directors member
It’s been a few years since Willie Lanier played middle-linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs. At 6-1, 245 pounds, he presented a daunting defensive image to any quarterback who lined up against him — and was nicknamed “Contact” because of his powerful hits on the opposition.

Today, a successful businessman with his football days behind him, Willie Lanier no longer wants to block anyone — in fact he’s doing whatever he can to help students, including Phi Theta Kappa members, reach their goals and earn their college degrees.

Lanier has provided more than $525,000 in scholarships to students in Richmond (Virginia) Public Schools, which he attended. In 2011 after serving as a guest speaker at the Ohio Regional Convention he established the Dorothy C. Lanier Scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa members attending community colleges in Ohio. The scholarship fund will allow a $1,000 scholarship to be presented each year.

“I wasn’t familiar with community colleges or Phi Theta Kappa when I came to speak at the Ohio Regional Convention, but I saw people looking for the benefit of education who were so appreciative of what Phi Theta Kappa can do,” Lanier said. “I think Phi Theta Kappa is telling students that there is opportunity based on how they continue their education — that they are competing with people around the world — based on the quality of their education.”

The scholarship is established in honor of the late Dr. Dorothy C. Lanier, Lanier’s aunt, to honor the inspiration, dedication, and love she provided not only to him but to students pursuing their educational and personal dreams.

Born in Clover, Virginia, Lanier played 11 years in the National Football League. His career includes a Super Bowl win, but despite his athletic success his first priority was his education. While playing professional football he also studied for an M.B.A. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. As an employee of Phillip Morris Company, he was the first African American to attend the Executive Program at the Darden School at the University of Virginia. He is former chairman and CEO of Syncreon US, a diversified automotive logistics company.

The first Dorothy C. Lanier Scholarship was presented at a July 2011 meeting of the Ohio Region of Phi Theta Kappa. Catalina Hurtado, a Beta Gamma Epsilon Chapter member at Stark State College, was the first recipient.

“With the award, I feel ready to succeed. It’s not just a financial award, it’s an inspiration award,” Hurtado said. “I want to thank Mr. Willie Lanier for continuing his work in honor of his aunt.”

The scholarship is open to Ohio Region Phi Theta Kappa members who plan to attend an accredited community college.

“By providing these scholarships, Mr. Willie Lanier is inspiring students to continue their education and strive for excellence,” said Dr. Nancy Rieves, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation.

About Dr. Dorothy Lanier A native of Arkansas, Dr. Dorothy C. Lanier received her education at Shorter College in Arkansas, Wilberforce University in Ohio, Henderson State Teachers University in Arkansas, East Texas State University and Columbia University. Twenty-eight years of her professional life were spent at Jarvis Christian College, where she advanced from secretary in various departments to professor of English and chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Science, a position she held until her retirement in 1987.

If you are interested in naming a scholarship in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Dr. Nancy Rieves, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, at nancy.rieves@ptk.org or 601.984.3537.
Leadership, success, a commitment to education and community service — all common values that bring Ivy League alumni of Rockland Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter back to work together with current chapter members — with great results for local charities. Their initiative even resulted in an invitation to a White House Holiday Open House in December 2011. Rockland Community College graduates and Phi Theta Kappa alumni Mark Svensson, a senior government major at Georgetown University, and Marvin Mathew, a junior government major at the University of Maryland, received the White House invitations after establishing the Rockland Roundtable Initiative in response to the White House’s call for citizens to debate and discuss current issues.

“One of the issues that came up in our Roundtable Initiative was promoting education in areas of our county affected by lower high school graduation rates,” Svensson explained. “Seeking to tackle this issue in a viable way, Marvin and I organized a Student Leaders Holiday Book Drive.”

Svensson and Mathew were joined by fellow alumni — Robert Chapklin, a senior management and marketing major at Georgetown, Phineas Lunger, a junior psychology major at Columbia University, and Kuldip Singh, a junior Nutritional Sciences major at Cornell University.

In just two months the alumni and 15 current members of the Alpha Phi Sigma Chapter at Rockland Community College collected more than 4,100 books, which were donated to the Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children & Youth, the Martin Luther King Center, Adults Caring for Teens of Spring Valley, New York, Head Start of Haverstraw, New York, and the Theresa Morahan Simmons Center for Children and Youth.

Anne Nissen, the Family Resource Coordinator at Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children & Youth, commented, “Thank you for your dedication to getting books to children. We know the complexities of bringing a goal to a successful conclusion and salute your victory!”

“A high school diploma and college degree are invaluable tools in today’s world. We as Phi Theta Kappans are working together — not just to spread this message to others, but to follow through in achieving our degrees, so that we continue to serve as role models to the youth of our community,” Svensson said. “In thinking of ways to make a positive impact in our community, education immediately jumped out. The correlation between the level of education one achieves and the opportunities that open up as a result is astonishing.”

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“One of the issues that came up in our Roundtable Initiative was promoting education in areas of our county affected by lower high school graduation rates,” Svensson explained. “Seeking to tackle this issue in a viable way, Marvin and I organized a Student Leaders Holiday Book Drive.”

Svensson and Mathew were joined by fellow alumni — Robert Chapklin, a senior management and marketing major at Georgetown, Phineas Lunger, a junior psychology major at Columbia University, and Kuldip Singh, a junior Nutritional Sciences major at Cornell University.

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“Speaking as a Phi Theta Kappa alumnus, it is remarkable to see the impact Phi Theta Kappa continues to have on so many people. Every day it becomes increasingly clear to me that the commitment to academic excellence, the service to others, and the leadership Phi Theta Kappa instills in its members are values that remain in us throughout life.”

Alumnus Mark Svensson, 2010 All-USA Community College Academic Team Member and New York’s New Century Scholar
“Dr. Player contributed so much to shaping the Phi Theta Kappa Experience. As a chapter advisor, an alumni advisor, Regional Coordinator and longtime supporter, she worked to enhance the value of membership and to provide opportunities to ensure student success. She leaves an incredible legacy.”

Dr. Rod A. Risley, Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director
Dr. Mary Anne Player’s Bequest Funds
Candidate Scholarships

Dr. Mary Anne Player was the quintessential teacher – she loved to share knowledge, to motivate students to learn and to mentor them toward success. She found a perfect complement in Phi Theta Kappa, serving the Society as a chapter and alumni advisor and Illinois Regional Coordinator – and impacting the lives of thousands of students in her home state and beyond.

Her legacy will live on through the Steven Orlowski Candidate Scholarship, which she helped create in 1987, supported through the years and endowed through a $50,000 legacy when she died in 2011, just months before her 91st birthday.

The Orlowski Scholarships honor the memory of Steve Orlowski, a member of Theta Omega Chapter at Wilbur Wright College in Chicago. Dr. Player was his advisor and mentor, and encouraged him to seek election as a 1986-87 Vice President. Steve was elected but died in office when the leukemia he had battled for years, in remission when he campaigned, returned.

The Orlowski Scholarship is given to the International Officer candidate who best exemplifies the Society Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship. The recipient is chosen by vote of the candidates at Annual Convention.

“Dr. Player understood the value of the Hallmarks and how they impacted student success,” said Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director Dr. Risley, whose friendship with Dr. Player began when he served as National President. In 1977, as Phi Theta Kappa’s Director of Alumni Affairs he chartered the first community-based alumni association, Alpha of Illinois, for which Dr. Player served as advisor.

“The endowment she created to perpetuate the Orlowski Scholarship will honor Steve and also portray our Hallmarks as the foundations for student success. Dr. Player was passionate about helping students achieve their full potential.”

Past recipients of the Orlowski Candidate Scholarship value the recognition for its intrinsic value as well as for its financial assistance.

“I keep the Orlowski Medallion in a prominent place on my desk to serve as a reminder that college education is a privilege not given to everyone,” said 2003 recipient Dawneen Banks. “I hope that by accomplishing my dream of receiving a bachelor’s degree, and now studying for a master’s degree, I am honoring the memory of Steve Orlowski and the generosity of Dr. Player,” said Banks, 2003-2004 Division IV International Vice President.

The most recent recipient, Sarah Yates, is currently serving as an International Vice President. “While I was not expecting to win this, knowing about the award made me even more aware that Phi Theta Kappa was looking for leaders who embodied the Hallmarks more than the competition involved in running for office. This knowledge changed how I viewed being a candidate and an International Officer. As candidates, we became a close-knit community, focusing on how we could better serve. That has carried over into my role as an International Officer, of being a servant leader. It’s not about proving you are the best, but doing the best job.”

Dr. Player would agree. “I knew Dr. Player over 35 years and I never met a person who was so caring and giving of themselves,” said Bob Potratz, a member of Theta Omega Chapter and a former president of Alpha of Illinois. “Through the Orlowski Candidate Scholarship Dr. Player will continue to help future generations of Phi Theta Kappa members.”

To contribute to the Orlowski Candidate Scholarship or leave a legacy in support of a program or scholarship for which you are passionate, contact Dr. Nancy Rieves, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, at 800.946.9995, Ext 3537, or email nancy.rieves@ptk.org.

Give online at ptkfoundation.org
An Open Letter to Friends of Phi Theta Kappa

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the debate over higher education continues. We must have a college-educated, well-trained workforce to move our economy forward. While the need for more graduates and credential holders is acknowledged, colleges are struggling to accommodate surging enrollments and provide more remedial classes, and graduates with huge student loan debts are finding they are not prepared for the jobs that exist.

Phi Theta Kappa’s Executive Director Dr. Rod Risley has been a champion of college completion. His column on page 2 of this edition of Visionary contains many details on the achievements of the Community College Completion Corps, the student-led movement created by Phi Theta Kappa.

President Barack Obama’s initiative to increase college completion came while the United States and other countries were in a recession that most observers say is still continuing. Certainly the economy is one of the largest obstacles to completion – students either lack financial resources or just cannot juggle the demands of college with full-time jobs, even though the hope of a better job is the reason most of them are in college.

Recently Phi Theta Kappa’s Facebook friends were invited to respond to questions about completion – why completion was important to them and what barriers they had experienced. Most of them saw completion as a means to be gainfully employed in a professional career, which would mean a better life for themselves and their families. And almost every respondent said that money would be the biggest obstacle to completion.

That’s why we are calling on you to support the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship. Our benefactors and friends, Lou and Rosemary Oberndorf, will match donations one-to-one up to $125,000. We hope to raise the $125,000 needed for the match and create a $250,000 endowment to fund scholarships specifically for students at risk of dropping out because of unanticipated financial needs. This scholarship will help students affected by natural disasters, job loss, medical emergencies and any crisis that is impacting their ability to pay for school.

Your contributions to the Oberndorf Scholarship Challenge will be doubled by the match, meaning that your single donation could save one student and raise the number of people holding college credentials.

The Oberndorf Scholarship, a first for Phi Theta Kappa, is a very integral part of our commitment to boost college credentialing rates. These scholarships will fill a very vital need within the community college arena, where only 45 percent of students enrolled persist and complete a degree or credential.

Phi Theta Kappa has a long-term commitment to college completion. Our mission charges us with providing recognition and opportunities for student success. To that end, we have worked with senior colleges and universities to develop transfer scholarships; and created scholarships for associate and baccalaureate studies. We have developed relationships with other agencies that provide scholarships to community college students, and encourage our members to apply. We are very proud to add the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarships to our program, and we are very grateful to the Oberndorfs and to our International Officers for leading the fundraising efforts.

Will you help? You can designate your gift to the Oberndorf Challenge by using the enclosed envelope, or visit the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation website, ptkfoundation.org/lifeline-to-completion to donate online.

Thank you for your support.

All the best,

Nancy L. Rieves, Ed.D
Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Executive Director
Phi Theta Kappa
Board of Trustees 2011-2012

The Phi Theta Kappa Foundation provides the resources for unique and innovative programs that encourage, engage, and motivate individuals to complete their degrees, fulfill their dreams and become leaders in our society.
# Phi Theta Kappa Financial Highlights

Following are condensed financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, derived from our consolidated financial statements audited by HORNE- LLP. Copies of our Form 990 and financial statements are available upon request.

## Consolidated Statement of Activities

For the Years Ended December 31, 2010 and 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>5,530,608</td>
<td>4,800,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,251,071</td>
<td>1,451,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention and conference fees</td>
<td>1,658,281</td>
<td>1,472,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition item and textbook sales, net</td>
<td>1,585,409</td>
<td>1,513,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for scholarships</td>
<td>690,504</td>
<td>711,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>586,676</td>
<td>502,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>965,631</td>
<td>861,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,268,180</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,313,021</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## EXPENSES

**Program Services**
- Convention and conferences: 1,693,388 | 1,364,197
- Scholarship and programs: 1,025,660 | 1,097,697
- Key Services programs: 1,134,012 | 1,115,345
- Chapter and faculty programs: 1,055,884 | 862,384
- Communication and Publications: 827,979 | 817,933
- Recognition services: 620,299 | 609,988
- Other: 1,779,624 | 1,098,731
- **Total Program Services**: 8,136,846 | 6,966,275

**Supporting Services**
- Management and General: 2,382,979 | 2,413,620
- Fundraising: 28,547 | 51,597
- **Total Expenses**: 10,548,372 | 9,431,492
- Change in Net Assets: 1,719,808 | 1,881,529
- Net Assets, Beginning of Year: 10,218,325 | 8,336,796
- Net Assets, End of Year: 11,938,133 | 10,218,325

## Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2010 and 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>2,117,464</td>
<td>2,438,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Cash Current Assets</td>
<td>1,279,204</td>
<td>1,182,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>6,391,311</td>
<td>3,685,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment, net</td>
<td>5,509,641</td>
<td>5,785,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>469,464</td>
<td>445,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,767,084</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,537,757</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>908,567</td>
<td>856,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term liabilities</td>
<td>2,920,384</td>
<td>2,462,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>3,828,951</td>
<td>3,319,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>11,938,133</td>
<td>10,218,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>13,537,757</strong></td>
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</table>
2011 Honor Roll of Donors

The fiscal year 2011 Honor Roll of Donor Giving Societies recognizes the generous annual support of our donors by giving levels. These contributions support programs and services that help shape the lives of current and future Phi Theta Kappa students.

We are grateful for all contributions to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. These lists include in-kind gifts, gifts of cash, stocks, and property as well as gifts given in honor or in memory of an individual.

Athena Legacy Society

The Athena Society is designed to provide permanent recognition to those individuals who have made the thoughtful decision to leave a gift to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation in their estate planning, regardless of the amount or the type of fund intended. Planned gifts include bequests, trusts, life insurance and other deferred giving options that allow individuals to support Phi Theta Kappa while making plans beneficial to their individual financial circumstances. The individuals listed here represent many, but not all of those who have chosen to contribute to the future of Phi Theta Kappa in this manner.

Anonymous
Robert C. Blank
Kevin R. Braden
Phyllis and Harvey Cooke
June Cordier
Laura Dupree
Nell Ewing
Janice R. Freeman
Joyce F. Freeman
Shirley B. Gordon
Margaret and Jack Guistwhite
Larry O. Horn
Leanne W. Jardine
Anne M. Levig
Jo Marshall
Ruth B. Matthews
Barb and Bob Murray
Mary Anne Player
Nancy L. Rieves
Rod A. Risley
Jeannette and James Sasmor
Virginia (Ginny) Stahl
Terri Williamson
West Wilson

Oak Leaf Society

The Oak Leaf Society consists of donors who have chosen to establish a named endowment or contribute to an existing endowment supporting Phi Theta Kappa. Endowment gifts strengthen the long-term financial security that is required to ensure quality programs and member scholarships year after year.

Donors can establish a named endowment starting at $25,000. Donations to existing endowment funds can be made at any time and in any amount. Contributions are tax-deductible and can be for general support or designated to a specific program. Immediate and long-term needs include funds to support Faculty Scholar Conferences, Honors Institute/programming, Convention, scholarships, and general operations. The Foundation works with donors to find the area of support that is the best fit for their philanthropic wishes.

The Phi Theta Kappa Foundation is grateful for the following individuals and organizations that have established endowments.

Anonymous
Robert C. Blank
Christopher A. Calhoun
Marian Combs
June Cordier
Melanie and Michael Dowell
Essex Community College Scholarship
Joan and Robert Fedor
Janice Freeman and Joyce Freeman
Shirley B. Gordon
Hites Family Community College Scholarship Foundation
Leanne W. Jardine
Richard Jardine
Judy and John Kesler
Jo and Scott Marshall
John C. Modschiedler
Middle States Region
New York Region
Mu Epsilon Chapter (FL)
Mary Anne Player
Donald W. Reynolds Foundation
Gayle Wyatt

To learn more about establishing an endowment and membership to the Oak Leaf Society; or to notify us about your planned gift and membership to the Athena Society, please call Dr. Nancy Rieves at 1.800.946.9995, ext 3537.

* Deceased in italics
**Jefferson Society**  
$25,000+

**Individuals:**  
Mary Anne Player

**Organizations:**  
American Association of Community Colleges  
Bank of America  
Coca-Cola Foundation  
Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation  
Envision EMI LLC  
Follett Higher Education Group  
GANNETT/USA TODAY  
GEICO  
Hites Family Community College Scholarship Foundation  
L-3 Communications Corporation  
Medical Education Technologies, Inc. (METI)  
National Awards  
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

**Founders Society**  
$10,000 - $24,999

**Individuals:**  
Anonymous  
Margaret and Jack Guistwhite  
Willie Lanier

**Mosal Society**  
$5,000 - $9,999

**Individuals:**  
Christopher A. Calhoun  
Eugene A. Cook  
Mary and Duane Hood

**Organizations:**  
American Cancer Society  
Hederman Brothers Printers  
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation  
Marymount University  
Mississippi College  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Texas Region Alumni Association  
University of Montevallo  
University of North Texas  
University of Texas System

**Directors Society**  
$2,500 to $4,999

**Individuals:**  
Anonymous (2)  
Melanie and Michael Dowell  
Janice R. Freeman  
Joyce F. Freeman  
Denise and Richard Hattox  
Debra J. and Rod A. Risley

**Organizations:**  
Colorado State University  
Mississippi University for Women  
Northwood University - Michigan  
SunGard Higher Education  
T-Mobile  
Webster University

**Presidents Society**  
$1,000 to $2,499

**Individuals:**  
Alison and J. Mark Davis  
Joan Fedor  
Curtis E. Goodman  
Willis H. Lott  
Jo and Scott Marshall  
Christa and John C. Motschieder  
Karen J. Roush  
John D. Steffens

**Organizations:**  
Alpha Phi Lambda Chapter  
Ashford University  
Atmos Energy  
BancorpSouth  
BankPlus  
Bastyr University  
Beta Lambda Delta Chapter  
Bridgepoint Education, Inc.  
Campbell University  
Capella University  
Coahoma Community College  
Collin College  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
Cornell University - College of Industrial & Labor Relations  
Dallas Baptist University  
East Central Community College  
East Central Community College Foundation  
Entergy  
Hinds Community College  
Holmes Community College  
Holmes Community College Development Foundation Fund  
Itawamba Community College  
Jones County Junior College  
Jones County Junior College Foundation  
Mississippi Delta Community College  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Foundation  
Northeast Mississippi Community College Foundation  
Northwest Mississippi Community College Foundation  
Northwest Mississippi Community College Foundation  
Nova Southeastern University  
Pearl River Community College Development Foundation, Inc.  
Pearl River Community College  
Robert Morris University  
Rocky Mountain-Cascade Region  
Saint Martin’s University  
SODEXO  
Southwest Mississippi Community College  
Texas A & M University - Galveston  
Trustmark National Bank  
University of Alabama  
University of Texas - Pan American  
Valley Services, Inc.  
Wentworth Institute Tech

**Scholars Society**  
$500 to $999

**Individuals:**  
George Barnes  
Josephine and Eric Chong  
Deidra Daws  
Susan and Jeff Edwards  
David A. Elder  
Heather M. Johnson  
Peggy LePage  
Maureen and David R. Pierce  
Saralyn S. Quinn  
Nancy L. Rieves

**Organizations:**  
bluedoor LLC  
Carolinas Region  
Catfish Farmers of America  
Florida Region  
Green River Community College  
Renasant Bank  
Sheraton Hotel & Resorts  
Somerset Community College  
- Financial Aid Office  
- Math and Science Department  
- Health Science Division  
- Student Services  
- Physical Therapy Assistant Students  
- Learning Commons  
- Center Directors  
- Clinton Center  
- Transitional Education Division  
Texas Region
Golden Key Society
$250 to $499

Individuals:
Anonymous
Christine L. Case and Donald D. Biederman
Robert C. Blank
Kevin R. Braden
Paul A. Burrough
Monika S. Byrd
Judith J. Carrier
Laura and Mark Dupree
Nell Ewing
Patricia and Richard Federinko
Susan K. Fischer
Ann D. and Douglas W. Foard
Ann and Herbert Morris
Barbara and Bob Murray
Kenneth W. Ruemek
Judy and David H. Shinn
Jennifer E. Stanford
M. Dean Stewart
Stephanie and Don Supalla
Carolyn and Brady Surles
Courtney and Stephen Taylor
West M. Williamson
Wirt A. Yerger, Jr.

Organizations:
Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, LLC
Beta Iota Chi Chapter
FedEx International
New York Region
Wirt A. Yerger, Jr. Foundation, Inc.

Hallmark Society
$90 to $249

Individuals:
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Gisela R. Ables
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