



Phi Theta Kappa

Virginia / West Virginia Region



Regional Honors Institute

October 25, 2025

Hosted by Sweet Briar College

Virtual Conference

“THE POWER OF STORIES”

2025-2026 VA/WV REGIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: John Redden, Laurel Ridge Community College – Middletown Campus

VICE PRESIDENT: Maria Jimenez, Eastern Shore Community College

SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER: MacKenzie Carter, Mountain Gateway Community College

HONORS CHAIR: Wren Groth, Piedmont Virginia Community College

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Jenni VanCuren, Laurel Ridge Community College – Middletown Campus

ASSOCIATE REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Samantha Sharkey, Germanna Community College

Kenny Walker, Eastern Shore Community College

CO-HOST CHAPTERS

Eastern Shore Community College

Laurel Ridge Community College – Fauquier

Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria

Piedmont Virginia Community College



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 (TENTATIVE SCHEDULE)

10:00 – 10:30 am	Virtual Sweet Briar Welcome and Tour
10:30 – 11:45 am	First Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by Regional Vice President• Door prizes by Laurel Ridge Community College--Fauquier• Speaker introduction by Piedmont Virginia Community College• Speaker• Alumni Announcements• Seminar Groups
11:45 – 12:30 pm	College Fair
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 – 1:15 pm	Halloween Costume Contest
1:15 – 2:15 pm	Second Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by Regional President• Door Prizes by Laurel Ridge Community College--Fauquier• Roll Call• Speaker Introduction by Piedmont Virginia Community College• Speaker• Seminar Groups
2:15 – 3:15 pm	Third Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by Social Media Officer• Door Prizes by Laurel Ridge Community College--Fauquier• Speaker Introduction by Piedmont Virginia Community College• Speaker• Seminar Groups
3:15 – 4:00 pm	Fourth Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by Associate Regional Coordinator• Door prizes by Laurel Ridge Community College--Fauquier• Alumni Scholarships• Seminar Group Honors in Action Project Highlights• Regional Updates/Recognitions

Upcoming Important Dates

Regional Convention	March 6-8, 2026	Ruckersville, VA
Catalyst	March 26-28, 2026	Baltimore, MD
Regional Honors Institute	October 23-25, 2026	George Mason University

Quotes about Stories

“After nourishment, shelter, and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world.”

— Philip Pullman

“The destiny of the world is determined less by the battles that are lost and won than by the stories it loves and believes in.”

— Howard Goddard

“Stories constitute the single most powerful weapon in a leader’s arsenal.”

— Dr. Howard Gardner

“Stories have power. They delight, enchant, touch, teach, recall, inspire, motivate, challenge. They help us understand. They imprint a picture on our minds. Consequently, stories often pack more punch than sermons. Want to make a point or raise an issue? Tell a story.”

— Janet Litherland

“Think about the word ‘destroy.’ Do you know what it is? De-story. Destroy. Destory. You see. And restore. That’s re-story. Do you know that only two things have been proven to help survivors of the Holocaust? Massage is one. Telling their story is another. Being touched and touching. Telling your story is touching. It sets you free.”

— Francesca Lia Black

“The purpose of stories is not to tell you how to think, but to give you questions to think upon.”

— Brandon Sanderson