

***Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship – Emelita Bardzell, 2016 Graduate, 2015 Phi Theta Kappa Secretary***

The Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarships recognize the outstanding academic and leadership accomplishments of students who are enrolled in regionally accredited community college programs in registered nursing, respiratory care or emergency medical services. Phi Theta Kappa annually awards up to 20 scholarships of \$2,500 each, a total of \$50,000 in scholarships each year.

***Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship – Mohamed Abdelghany, 2016 Graduate***

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholarship program provides new Phi Theta Kappa members with financial resources to help defray educational expenses while enrolled in a two-year college in order to develop leadership potential through participation in Phi Theta Kappa programs. The program awards up to 200 scholarships of \$1,000 each.

***Regional Hall of Fame Chapter Member – Kristen Livria, 2016-2017 Vice President, 2015-2016 WAC Public Relations Officer***

Middle States Regional Hall of Fame Members are selected based on a student's embodiment of the Hallmarks of the Society, emphasizing participation in Society programs. Kristen Livria was honored as one of the Middle States Regional Chapter Member Hall of Fame – congratulations Kristen.

***Regional Hall of Fame and Distinguished Chapter Officer – Miguel De Jesus, 2016 Graduate, 2015-2016 President, 2014-2015 Vice President of Service***

Middle States Regional Hall of Fame Chapter Officers are selected based on the recipients' demonstration of leadership, involvement in chapter programs, friendship with fellow scholars, and enthusiasm for the Society's Hallmarks. From the Hall of Fame Chapter Officers, up to 3 recipients are named Middle States Region Distinguished Chapter Officers. Alpha Eta Chi's President Miguel De Jesus was honored and named Chapter Officer Hall of Fame and Middle States Regional Distinguished Chapter Officer. Congratulations Miguel.

***Regional Horizon and Paragon Advisor Awards – Professor Jennifer Gasparino, Advisor***

Award-winning advisors are those who make significant contributions to the growth of the individual members, serve as the chapter's advocate on campus, and encourage the chapter to be involved on the local, regional and/or international levels of the organization. 15 Advisors from the Region are chosen for the Horizon Award, and from those 15, only 3 are selected for the Paragon Chapter Advisor Award. Professor Jennifer Gasparino was awarded both the Middle States Region Horizon Advisor Award and Paragon Advisor Award. Congratulations Professor Gasparino.

***Regional Distinguished Honors in Action Project***

Honors in Action Projects are based on a theme from the Honors Study Topic. Alpha Eta Chi's 2015 Honors Study Topic was *Borders and Boundaries, Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration*. Honors in Action projects incorporate the following components: Academic research and analysis, Leadership roles and leadership development, Action - service and/or advocacy, Collaboration, and Reflection.

Honors in Action projects require substantial academic investigation of a theme related to the Society's current Honors Study Topic. The theme selected is required to be directly connected to and provide supporting evidence for the development of the action component of the project. Honors in Action projects require taking on meaningful leadership roles and developing significant leadership skills to address a need in the community that was discovered through research and analysis. Alpha Eta Chi's Honors in Action, Borders in Boundaries was named Middle States Regional Distinguished Honors in Action Project. A special thank you to the Honors in Action Committee members and Emelita Bardezll and Iris Rosario, Honors in Action Committee Co-chairs.

### ***Regional and International Distinguished College Project***

The purpose of the College Project is to establish a supportive relationship between the chapter and the college community, specifically collaborating with the administration and other student organizations. The chapter is required to work with administration to develop a theme, which supports the college's mission. PCCC's 2015 College Project was The Get to Graduation, Game of LIFE. The Game of LIFE reached over 200 students and over 50 faculty, staff, and administrators, participated.

Without the support of the Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Student Activities, and the Student Government Association, Alpha Eta Chi would not have received this amazing honor. The Get to Graduation, Game of life received both the Phi Theta Kappa International and Middle States Regional Distinguished College Project. A special thank you to the College Project Committee members and Kelly Gutierrez and Yesinia Aranda, College Project Committee Co-chairs.

### ***Regional Distinguished Chapter***

To be considered for a Distinguished Chapter Award, a chapter must submit entries for both the Honors in Action Project and College Project Award. Selection of the Distinguished Chapters by the Middle States Region is based on the written entries for these Hallmark Awards. The scores in each of the two Hallmark categories mentioned above are averaged to determine a chapter's overall ranking. Alpha Eta Chi scored in the top 5 for the Middle States Region and was named a Middle States Region Distinguished Chapter.

### ***Middle States Gold Chapter and International 5 Star Chapter Recognition***

**Phi Theta Kappa chapters have five levels of engagement that progress from local campus involvement to regional involvement to international involvement.** The Five Star Chapter Plan is the roadmap guiding the chapter through the levels. This plan, which reflects the scholarly ideals of Phi Theta Kappa, serves as a blueprint for developing a strong chapter and for earning local, regional, and international recognition. Participation encourages excellence and recognizes progress in the attainment of goals set by the chapter.

Alpha Eta Chi has reached 5 Star status and has been recognized as a Middle States Gold chapter thanks to our 5 Star competitive edge members: Miguel De Jesus, Kelly Gutierrez, Emelita Bardezell, Nicholas Peterson, William Matais, Kristen Livria, Thomas Garside, and Jeremiah Castro.

***Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction – Dr. Steven Rose, PCCC President***

College presidents and campus CEOs are selected for this award on the basis of outstanding efforts given toward promoting the goals of Phi Theta Kappa. The award is named for the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, Phi Theta Kappa's longest serving Board of Directors Chair and President Emeritus of Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington. Our very own Dr. Steven Rose, PCCC President, received the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction. Congratulations Dr. Rose and thank you for your amazing contributions to our Chapter!

As a result of all its hard work Alpha Eta Chi has been named #4 in Middle States Region and one of 2016 Phi Theta Kappa International Top 100 Chapters. Congratulations Alpha Eta Chi!

And Congratulations and Thank you to all who participated and helped Alpha Eta Chi succeed!