



# Eastern-in-the-News



## INDUCTION RITE CALLS 14 EASTERN STUDENTS TO INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

**Moorefield – March 29** — Fourteen local college students received extraordinary recognition at a special academic ceremony last month, as the Beta Nu Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, officially inducted them into membership.

Four of the new honorees had earned selection last fall, and the society tapped another 10 this spring, as Eastern WV Community and Technical College held the official induction ceremony for both semesters March 23 at Moorefield's South Branch Inn.

"This ceremony is very special, because the inductees and the members of Eastern's Phi Theta Kappa society are truly Eastern's gold standard," said Robert 'Buck' Eagle, Dean for Academics and Student Support Services at Eastern WV Community and Technical College.

"Gold is the sign of excellence, and like the Olympic Games, where you always have the standard of gold, silver and bronze," Eagle noted, "on the highest pedestal is always the gold, and those worthy of gold always stand on that top pedestal."

### Value & Purpose



**Induction Rite Calls 14 Eastern Students To International Honor Society:** The Beta Nu Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, welcomed 14 students from Eastern WV Community and Technical College into membership March 23. The college held the induction ceremony at Moorefield's South Branch Inn.

Induction into Phi Theta Kappa recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of two-year college students. "These 14 students have fulfilled the requirements, and have been selected because they have chosen truth and service as their hallmarks," Curtis Hakala,

Eastern's Instructor and Coordinator for Developmental Education in English, told the new inductees and their assembled families and friends.

Dr. Chuck Terrell, Eastern's President, offered the new Honor Society members a window on the "value and purpose of Phi Theta Kappa.

"It is to recognize and encourage scholarship among Community and Technical College students, and it provides the opportunities for the development of leadership and service — not only on campus but within the communities we serve," he said.

Pointing out that "as new and future leaders," the students should "not only rely on that knowledge" and "those skills, that ability to think critically" that they are acquiring through their college studies, but must also," Terrell emphasized, patting his chest over his heart, "take into consideration what happens in here."

### **H-E-A-R-T**

For him, he said, 'HEART' means to "always be Honorable....to Empower others...to remain Authentic...to focus on Relationships...and last, remain Touchable...so you can learn and grow as a leader."

Shirley Murphy, a long time member of P.T.K., who holds three associate degrees, plus a B.A. and a master's, and teaches several business courses at Eastern, offered the keynote address.

Quoting Conrad Hilton, the businessman and investor who founded the Hilton Hotel chain, she reminded the students that "'Successful men and women keep moving: they make mistakes, but they don't quit.'

"Your induction into our chapter of Phi Theta Kappa speaks loudly as to your determination for achievement. You didn't quit, you didn't give up, and you never stopped looking forward to the future," said Murphy, who also works as a geriatric nurse.

### **Role Models**

She read a list of "other notable Phi Theta Kappas" with whom the new honor society members now "begin to share affiliation," including H. Ross Perrot, Trish Yearwood, Rich Kaarlgard, the publisher of Forbes magazine, and James F. Ports, Jr., a former Maryland House of Delegates member.

"As you experience leadership opportunities found through membership in this society," she asserted, "you will have a chance to serve not only as a role model for others, but as a leader as well.

"You have the chance to make a difference, and can effect change where it is needed," she said, quoting former President Harry S. Truman: "'Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.'"

She pointed out a number of the benefits that P.T.K. members enjoy, including "the opportunity to exchange ideas with other like minds and receive other ideas in return," which is a way, she said, of "expanding the mind and opening your eyes to distinctly different possibilities." And a purely practical side, P.T.K.'s corporate partners offer member-only scholarships, discounts on insurance and textbooks, and other perks.

### **Hope & Inspiration**

"As I look upon the face of each inductee," she said, bringing tears to many of the eyes looking up at her, "I realize that I am looking into the faces of future leaders, and future economic decision makers: the faces of our tomorrow, and the faces of those who can and will effect a positive change.

"And I realize there is hope: hope for our economy, for our society and for our nation. Always remember," Murphy emphasized, "you are an inspiration for others: so never forget that you lead by the example you set."

**Fall semester, 2011 inductees included:** William E. Baldwin, Moorefield, Stephanie S. Clouse, Petersburg, Joyce A. Combs, Romney, and Brittney N. Craver, Rowlesburg in Preston County.

**Spring semester, 2011 honorees:** included Paula E. Alt, Fisher, Jane E. Bacilio, Christina M. Eye, Brandon L. Hose, Serena M. Hoyt and Laura L. Mongold, all of Moorefield; Sarah G. Landis, Augusta Rachel L. Newcomer, Levels; Davida M. Quinn, Augusta; and Tammy L. Rowe, Franklin.

For more information about Eastern's opportunities for financial aid, programs of study and workforce and community education, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College's website: "[www.easternwv.edu](http://www.easternwv.edu)".

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, is a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.