



DCCC photo

Tau Beta chapter officers (L-R) Nicole Craver, Parker Tilley, Darlene Trahan, Crystal Kissee, Kelsey Mills, Megan Lambeth and Robin Beck show the awards won at the regional Phi Theta Kappa conference.

DCCC's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Wins Regional Awards

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Tau Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Davidson County Community College received multiple awards during the annual Carolinas Region Convention held recently in Columbia, S.C. Tau Beta was recognized for the second straight year for its College Project and earned an Honorable Mention for design and implementation of an Honors In Action student leadership development project. These recognitions also netted the chapter an Honorable Mention as a Distinguished

Chapter, ranking fifth in the region out of nearly 80 chapters. By participating in a variety of projects, leadership activities, service opportunities and conferences nationwide, Tau Beta received designation as a four-star chapter and was named one of the Most Improved Chapters in the region. DCCC was also recognized for participating in the regional Honors In Action study topic and assisting with the regional service project. "I'm so proud of the progress that our chapter has made over the past two years," says Parker Tilley, chapter president. "I'm

honored to have been able to work with such a great group of people this year and to have helped our college and local communities in the ways that we have." In addition, adviser Sara Neeves was a recipient of the Horizons Award for new and exceptional chapter advisers. "I'm honored to be recognized as an outstanding advisor for such an amazing organization," Neeves says. "It's been a joy to work with the students in DCCC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and watch them achieve such high levels of success. I'm very proud of their accomplishments."

Tau Beta members worked with college administration to strengthen ties between the college and the local business community for its 2015-2016 College Project. They reached out to industry leaders and made site visits, providing information on programs offered at DCCC and building stronger relationships that will benefit students seeking jobs in the future. For the Honors In Action project, the chapter researched food insecurity and food deserts. They then worked with the Davidson County Health Department to survey local stores that sell fresh produce and

worked with new stores to help develop additional programs. "I'm so proud of the work our chapter has done this year," says Jeannine Woody, vice president, academic programs and services. "Their ability to identify a need, develop and implement a plan has been outstanding. I know that through these experiences they have gained insight into themselves and their leadership abilities." Tau Beta chapter members Robin Beck, Nicole Craver, Crystal Kissee, Megan Lambeth, Kelsey Mills and Darlene Trahan joined Tilley at the conference, in addition to advis-

ers Sharon Carter and Neeves. Over the past two years, chapter officers have worked to make Tau Beta a leader on both the regional and national levels. Last year, DCCC's chapter was recognized for implementing one of the top 25 College Projects in the world during the international conference. For more information on Phi Theta Kappa and membership opportunities, contact Sara Neeves at 336-249-8186 ext. 6705, or SENeeves@DavidsonCCC.edu.

Forsyth Tech announces new data analytics strategy

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth Technical Community College (FTCC) has announced a new partnership with Civitas Learning to use advanced data analytics to enhance student support and improve retention and graduation rates over time. FTCC will draw on Civitas Learning's technology and data expertise to uncover hidden barriers to student success and help students plan the most efficient pathway to a degree. To help ensure more North Carolina students have the skills and training for 21st century careers, a number of major initiatives are under way in the state, including SuccessNC, which aims to double the number of students who earn a postsecondary credential by 2020. To achieve that goal, thousands of students will attend one of North Carolina's community colleges, which serve over 300,000 students statewide.

Increasingly, these colleges are looking to data analytics as a strategy for improving student success rates. Forsyth Tech joins colleges like Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury using data analytics to make powerful course corrections and ensure students are on track to complete a degree or certificate. "We pride ourselves at Forsyth Tech on our commitment to academic excellence, whether that is adult and continuing education, lifelong learning, or preparation for in-demand careers. In partnership with Civitas Learning, this sophisticated data strategy will help us to anticipate and understand challenges to our academic mission, provide personalized support to students and better serve a diverse cross-

section of learners across the region," said Dr. Gary Green, president of Forsyth Tech. "Community colleges like Forsyth Tech play a critical role in supporting local innovation and economic growth. We are increasingly relying on them for next generation jobs in tech, life sciences and manufacturing," said former North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue who serves as a senior advisor to Whiteboard Advisors. "I applaud the efforts of our local community colleges that are using data analytics and advanced research strategies to help students graduate and create a stronger future for North Carolina." Civitas Learning works with partners to build institution-specific predictions of student success, enabling colleges and universities to develop a clear picture of the specific trends and factors driving student success on campus. The partnership will enable Forsyth Tech to combine disconnected data sources from across the institu-

tion into a single platform that provides real-time insights and recommendations for supporting students in highly-personalized ways. Forsyth Tech is joining Civitas Learning's community of leading higher education institutions and systems, which now reaches more than 880 campuses serving close to 3.2 million students across the nation. "Through this pioneering work using analytics and data strategy to improve outcomes, Forsyth Tech is proving their commitment to innovation and ensuring all students successfully complete their journey," said Dr. Mark Milliron, Co-founder and Chief Learning Officer at Civitas Learning. "This partnership is a compelling example of how institutions in North Carolina and across the nation can make the most of data to improve student outcomes and experience. We're thrilled to welcome a leader such as Forsyth Tech to the Civitas Learning community."

WFU Law joins two schools to blaze trail for new standardized testing option

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Several years ago Wake Forest University blazed a trail by deciding to waive SAT scores for undergraduate admissions. Now Wake Forest Law is joining the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, which invited Wake Forest and the University of Hawaii at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law, to participate in its experiment to assess the reliability of the GRE® revised General Test as an additional standardized test for possible admission to law school. "The LSAT has been the only test for law school admissions for decades - and satisfies no other graduate program," says Dean Suzanne Reynolds (JD '77). "In an era when applicants are often thinking about more than one graduate or professional program, we should assess whether the more familiar GRE test predicts success in law school as well as the LSAT. "We are in the process of testing the relative reliability of the LSAT and the GRE test. Like the LSAT, the GRE test also assesses verbal reasoning and analytical writing and is taken by about five times as many students around the world."

Reynolds adds, "While the LSAT will remain the primary standardized test for law school admissions, if the GRE test proves to be a reliable alternative, we may find that our applicant pool becomes more diverse, an outcome that would make these efforts worthwhile." As part of its research efforts, Wake Forest Law has asked current students and recent graduates (Classes of 2013 and later) to volunteer to take the four-hour GRE test in February or share past scores from August 2011 or later. The law school is also asking them to share their LSAT scores, law school grades, and demographic information. The Educational Testing Service will use the data for anonymous comparisons. The University of Arizona law school announced on Feb. 9 it will become the first to accept applications from prospective students who have taken the GRE General Test instead of the LSAT. Effectively immediately, Arizona will consider either LSAT or GRE scores in admissions, a move Arizona law school's dean, Marc Miller, said would help it reach a broader pool of would-be applicants. That, in turn, should result in a stronger student body,

he added. "The fundamental impetus for this comes from the desire to put together the best and most diverse class we can," Miller told The National Law Journal's Karen Sloan. Arizona law school made the decision to accept the GRE after a study conducted by Educational Testing Services, which administers the GRE, concluded that the test, coupled with undergraduate grade-point average, is as reliable as the LSAT in predicting the taker's success in the first year of law school. Wake Forest Law expects to have the results of the reliability studies in the next several months. If the results prove the GRE's reliability, Wake Forest Law will open the GRE to current applicants, Dean Reynolds says. The Wake Forest University School of Law offers the following degrees: the JD, the Two-Year JD for International Lawyers, the JD/MA in Bioethics, the JD/MDiv, the JD/MA in Religion, JD/MA in Sustainability, the Master of Studies in Law, the Master of Laws in American Law, the SJD and the JD/MBA in conjunction with the university's School of Business.

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