Hello Ohio Region!
I would first like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your 2023-2024 Ohio Regional President. Last year, I served as the Ohio Regional Team’s Secretary and Newsletter editor, and it was truly one of the best experiences of my life. This aside, I hope everyone has had a fantastic summer! I also hope that if any of you had to take summer classes, they weren’t too hard to handle. I will be taking Anatomy and Physiology 2 starting in a couple of weeks to go towards my Occupational Therapy certification, so wish me luck! I know everyone is excited for classes to start up again this Fall, as this also means the start of a new year for Chapter HIA and College projects! As the president of my local chapter, Beta Nu Pi at Marion Technical College, this is something I am definitely looking forward to.

Speaking of HIA, who is excited for our next conference! The regional team is looking forward to addressing our Ohio Region family for the first time as a team this July. I hope we make you all feel welcomed and supported. I know last year’s awards conference was brief, but our experiences there and at Catalyst (That was in Ohio for the FIRST TIME EVER) were unforgettable. I am super excited to be able to continue this legacy and lead our region to reach all of our goals this year! Please feel free to reach out to me for any questions, comments, concerns, and/or everything in between! We are the #PTKOhioRegion and we are all #PTKProud. Thank you.

Your 2023-2024 Ohio Regional President,
Abigale Jordan
abigale.jordan.ptk@gmail.com
Take a look
inside Regional Address

By: Dave Sigmund

Greeting Ohio Region!

Summer is upon us and my favorite month, June! There is something about the month that makes the world feel bright. And I am not doing a pun on about the longer daylight hours! Speaking about longer daylight hours, isn’t it interesting that most people polled thinking summertime has longer daylight hours? Not according to Neil deGrasse Tyson! This year the Summer Solstice will take place on Wednesday, June 21st, 2023, at 10:57 A.M. That marks the beginning of summer and the daylight hours start getting shorter. With that, the daylight hours begin to get longer with the advent Winter Solstice! However, we never think of it that way because Summer has longer daylight hours than winter. Our mind tricks us into believing otherwise! Nevertheless, I will take summer weather anytime over frigid wind, ice, and snow. Speaking of ice, I am getting too old to slip and fall down!

Friday-Saturday, July 14-15, 2023 will be the Honors in Action Conference at Washington State Community College in Marietta! The Friday evening Fellowship will include our usual ride on the Valley Gem down the Ohio River! Food served on board, of course! Bob Doering from Lorain Community College will also be on board to spin tunes for us!

Saturday will be our business meeting with break-out sessions, a wonderful lunch, and of course, other activities. Alpha of Ohio Alumni Association will be conducting a basket auction. We ask that all chapters donate a theme basket for the raffle to help support the scholarship fund! In addition, there will be a 50/50 drawing.

The conference will be dedicated to the Eve Inc. Battered Women’s Shelter. Please being items for donation, such as: paper towels, baby wipes, toilet paper, and person hygiene items. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Kevin Ritter He is a Washington County Commissioner and a history professor. He will be asked to briefly discuss the Northwest Territory. For those who are history nerd, that should be quite enjoyable!

There will be provisions for a marketplace. If your chapter would like us to have a marketplace table, please let me know. As usual, Washington State Community College will be pulling out all stops hosting a memorable conference, this will be the first conference for the new regional officer team, The Valkyries! As taken from the Internet, “In Norse mythology, a Valkyrie (“chooser of the slain”) is one of a host of female figures who guide the souls of the dead to the god Odin’s Hall Valhalla.” Yes, that is their moniker!

As always, have a wonderful safe summer! I hope to see you at HIA!

Alumni Report
By: Sharon Evans- Putney

Graduation season is upon us. PTK members can become Alphas! To stay in communication with PTK, we ask you sign into your PTK account and change your contact email address from your school email to your own personal email account. Those who are interested in becoming Alpha Alumni, you will receive a choice of playing $10/year for dues to $100/lifetime dues. #PTK4Life

You can click of the following link https://ohio-region.ptk.org/Alumni.aspx and either print the application or complete it, save it, and email it back to Karen Spindler- Alpha of Ohio Advisor at the following email kspindler@egcc.edu. You may send your yearly or lifetime dues to: Eastern Gateway Community College 4000 Sunset Blvd. Steubenville, OH 43952 ATTN: Karen Spindler.

The alumni association is looking for new active members with amazing ideas to see the association grow and become more involved in providing scholarships to the community college students of the Ohio Region!

Any questions can be sent to me, association president at Sharon.Putney.PTK@gmail.com or Karen Spindler as written above.

Have you completed your EGDE programs?

Phi Theta Kappa offers 5 amazing EDGE programs for you to build skills to get hired, transfer to a four-year college or university, focus on professional development, and the principles of scholarly research (which helps for your HIA project). Complete your EDGE programs to not only learn about your next steps in life but to receive our awesome PTK EDGE completion pins as well. Some colleges also will use these courses as college credits… start your EDGE programs today.
District Reports

Northern: The chapters in the Northern District have been busy promoting collaboration within Phi Theta Kappa! We have inducted over 137 new members, virtually and in-person, as well as many chapters electing new officers creating new yet wonderful teams. There have been many chapter get-togethers whether it has been through meetings or fellowship opportunities. All chapters have started the process and planning of their Honors in Action and College Project for the 2023-2024 school year!

Eastern: The Eastern District Chapters have been holding their monthly meetings as well as have been electing new members and officers through all chapters. They have completed not only an Adopt a Highway event, with plans to complete another, but have participated in community Earth Day. Many chapters have participated in college campus student organizations but have promoted membership to high school students across the eastern region. Chapters have also pledged to partner for CCSmart, hosted a Phi Theta Kappa week, and have assisted in campus clean-up services! Chapters have also taken part in the Better World Books fundraiser and continuing care for the Pollinator Habitat. The Eastern Region has also recognized their All-Academic Team winners.

Western: The chapters in the Western District have seen an increase in fellowship events throughout the Western Region at all colleges. The chapters have also been busy inducting new members and officers this spring and cannot wait to see how many will be inducted during the fall. Chapters have also started working on their College Projects and Honors in Action projects in regard to the theme “The Art of Science and Play”.

September 30th, 2023
Tribute to Renee Deveaux

Renee Deveaux passed away on May 14th, 2023. Renee served nearly fifteen years as an advisor of the Alpha Rho Epsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Columbus State Community College. She served on the Ohio Region Advisory Board for at least six years. She was a relentless supporter of PTK and what it could do for students, mentoring many officer teams in their completion of the College Project and Honors in Action projects. She attended many conferences all over the US and enjoyed interacting with other PTK members and advisors. Perhaps her most vital contributions happened behind-the-scenes, helping students grow into their full potential. The former Assistant Dean who worked closely with her summarized it best, “Renee’s devotion to Phi Theta Kappa was remarkable. She received no remuneration for being an advisor other than being able to inspire the students and tell them, ‘A job well done.’ Because of her selflessness, Renee is irreplaceable since she served her PTK students in so many ways.”

Renee began working at Columbus State Community College in January 2006. She taught many classes in both the English Department and Communication Department. In 2018, she began teaching Oral Communication through the College Credit Plus (CCP) program at the Hilliard High School Hub. She was so popular there that the school requested her for two classes every semester, and recently asked if she would also be willing to teach two English classes there through the CCP program.

Her chairman commented, “She was caring, creative, dependable, and dedicated. To say she will be greatly missed in our department is an understatement, and on a personal level, I will miss her very much.”

Our PTK officers and members are exploring ways to best honor her memory. Her passing leaves a huge void on the CSCC campus and in the Alpha Rho Epsilon Chapter; she will be missed.

Written by Columbus State Community College and sent in by Amy Goodwin
Hello, I am Rick Clever, and I am your Ohio Region Associate Regional Coordinator. I have been involved in Phi Theta Kappa as a member, chapter officer, regional officer, advisor, and Associate Regional Coordinator for almost 20 years. Currently I am the Advisor for two chapters at Owens Community College, Beta Xi Chi on our Findlay campus, which I had the honor of helping to chapter, and alpha Omega Pi on our Toledo campus, my home chapter.

I am the Technical Director for the Center of Fine Arts where I oversee all events in our theater as well as the art gallery and lobby. I build and light our students’ productions every semester as well as teach Stagecraft and the Technical Theater practicum. I also do freelance lighting designs for a few high schools and dance studios in the area and sound designs every now and again.

In my free time, (what is that?) I am a foodie and I love to cook. I enjoy all types of music, bingeing on Netflix and doom scrolling on various social media. I really enjoy traveling across the state to visit our chapter and it’s nothing for me to drive 17 hours to Jackson, MS to visit Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters.

My name is David Sigmund, and I am your Regional Coordinator. I have been the coordinator beginning in May of 2019. I am also a co-advisor of the Beta Gamma Epsilon Chapter at Stark State College. I went back to school at Stark State College in the fall of 2004 and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa on October 22, 2005. I served as chapter officer and regional officer, and it was one of the best experiences of my life. I graduated in 2009 with a degree in Applied Industrial Technology and went to earn my BS in Management from Franklin University. Finally, I graduated from Walsh University on December 14, 2014, with an MBA in Management. At that time, I was inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society.

I retired as a reliability electrician from The Timken Company Steel Division on November 30, 2012. I taught as an adjunct instructor in the Engineering Division at Stark State College until May of 2019 when I accepted a position as the support center technician. My job is to fabricate and repair lab equipment for the Engineering Division, and I still teach when needed.

I have always been involved with the community in one way or another. I was a volunteer fireman and EMT for nine-years, a Girl Scout leader for eleven and day camp director for 5 of those years (yes, I have three daughters and I had my own troop) and I loved every bit of it. I spent eight-years on the Sandy Valley Local Board of Education and was involved with the construction of all new school buildings. I also served two-years with the Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Advisory Council.

On a personal note, I will be traveling to Recife (pronounced hi-cee-fee), Brazil for two weeks on August 14, 2023! I have been to Mexico and Canada several times, but never off the North American Continent or below the Equator! It will be interesting to see if water really does run down the drain in a counterclockwise motion! And I am looking forward to seeing southern star constellations. I look forward to giving you an update on the trip at the at the Leadership In Action Conference in October!
Hello! My name is Abigale Jordan, and I am the current Ohio Regional President, and President of my local chapter Beta Nu Pi. I have just graduated from high school and from Marion Technical College with my Associate of Science Degree. I started being a full-time college student at 14 and grew from there. I will be finishing my education up this year to complete my Occupational Therapy Certification. After this, I plan to complete my two-year Master Program, and expanding my current career with OhioHealth from a therapy assistant to a therapist. Eventually, I hope to work in Veteran’s Affairs, and help wounded soldiers return to normalcy.

Phi Theta Kappa has truly changed my life. Not only has it brought me opportunities, but it has brought me a lifetime of friends that I will forever hold close to my heart. Thank you, Phi Theta Kappa Ohio, for electing me as your President, and giving me an opportunity to serve you!

Alyssa DeFlorentis is currently serving her second term on the Ohio Regional Officer Team as the Ohio Regional Vice President. Alyssa’s remarkable journey of impact began as the Northern District Representative where she proved to be an exceptional leader and advocate for positive transformation in the Ohio Region. Her dedication and unwavering commitment to her role have made her a respected figure within the region.

At Cuyahoga Community College West Campus, Alyssa serves as the President of the Beta Upsilon Beta chapter of Ohio Theta Kappa. As she enters her final year in the Visual Communication & Design Program, she is determined to acquire her AAB in Graphic Design and certificate in Web Design and Development.

Alyssa’s pursuit of academic excellence has been consistent throughout her life. In 2015, she graduated from the University of Akron, where she earned a BA in Theatre Arts: Musical Theatre. During her time there, Alyssa’s involvement in various organizations showcased her leadership potential. She was a distinguished member of the Honors College, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Golden Key International Honor Society. Additionally, she served as the President of the Theatre Guild and played a vital role as the Publications Coordinator for the Omega chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta. Her outstanding achievement led her to be nominated for the prestigious Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. Alyssa’s thirst for knowledge and diverse experiences also took her to Italy, where she participated in a Theatre Performance Ecology Program.

Following her graduation, Alyssa embarked on a professional journey that combined her administration skills with her passion for the arts. For several years, she dedicated herself to a full-time administrative role while simultaneously directing high school drama programs. This unique blend of experience has equipped her with a deep understanding of both the creative and organizational aspects of her field.

Alyssa’s burning desire to challenge societal norms and ignite transformative change is evident in every endeavor she undertakes. She envisions leveraging her creative talents and degrees to inspire future generations to break free from conventions and venture outside their comfort zones. Her goal is to empower individuals to effect positive change within their communities.

As the Vice President of the Ohio Regional Team, Alyssa is eager to guide the region towards sustained success. Her innovative thinking and fresh perspectives promise to elevate the region to new heights. This year, the Ohio Region can anticipate a brighter future filled with exciting opportunities and transformative initiatives.
Chrissy Valentino is a first-generation college student and a veteran currently dual enrolled at Eastern Gateway Community College and American International College. At Eastern Gateway Chrissy is obtaining her Patient Health Navigation Certificate to coincide with her pursuit of her Bachelor of Nursing, in which she has halfway completed.

Chrissy is currently a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the vice president of her chapter Alpha Omicron Nu at Eastern Gateway Community College. She is also a member of the Beta Zeta at-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau (the Honor Society of Nursing). At American International College she is the President of the Student Nurse Association in which she helps promote healthy living within the community as well as building trust between the community and the hospitals in the area. During the times she is not in class she works at her local Level One Trauma Hospital Baystate Medical Center as a Student Nurse Associate Program on a plethora of floors to include the ER, ICU, PICU, and NICU.

On her off time from school, she spends all of time with her three-year-old son, Bodin. She loves teaching him about the world, watching him grow and explore, and traveling around the world with him. Her son has been the biggest inspiration in her life and continuously has her strive to be the best mother and individual she could be.

During her time in the military, she deployed overseas and spent a majority of her military career there before lastly being stationed in Washington prior to receiving her DD214 with an honorable discharge. Once she has completed her degree, she plans on pursuing her Doctorates in Neonatal Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Anesthetist with contingency offers from the Ohio State University, the University of Connecticut, and Central Connecticut State College.

Rachel Ketler is a member and President of the Chi Omega chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Cuyahoga Community College West Campus. She is currently pursuing an associate in interior design and hopes to pursue a bachelors after obtaining her degree.

A first-generation college student, Rachel has been through many ups and downs and hopes to use the power of Phi Theta Kappa to support other first-generation and troubled students. Rachel spent a majority of her childhood helping raise and homeschool her four younger siblings and shielding them from the abuse in the house. Throughout high school she strived to be the best, eventually burning herself out junior year and suffering tremendously from untreated anxiety and depression. She dropped out of the College of Wooster after just one year because of mental and physical health problems.

Rachel’s then-coworker, and now husband, helped her find the bravery to go to therapy and begin to take care of herself. Now she is happy and healthy, and dreams of helping others in the same way she was helped. Phi Theta Kappa and community college have already had an incredible impact on Rachel’s life, and she hopes that she can make it easier for others to heal from their own traumas and take the reins of their life.

Rachel works full-time at the Massillon Public Library as a marketing specialist and hosts writing programs and an adult writing group. In her free time, Rachel writes under the pen name Dawn Dagger, and has several self-published novels, including her most recent novel The Chronicles of Salt and Blood; Sworn to the Sea. In addition to writing, Rachel enjoys making gaming and commentary YouTube videos under the name ‘crabfinated’ and dabbing in the animation and game design.
Stacy Jarvis is a full-time student working toward her bachelor’s degree with Franklin University and taking bridge courses at Washington State Community College. She is President of college chapter at WSCC, Alpha Rho Gamma and is very involved in her childhood community. She loves giving back by supporting food pantries, the women’s shelter, and local fundraisers. Prior to graduating with her AAB, Stacy was awarded a scholarship of excellence. She loves her job as a healthcare and member advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield and hopes to transfer into an analyst, auditing, or accounting role after she graduates.

Stacy and her two children moved back to her childhood town of Marietta in 2015, after her youngest son went into remission from brain cancer. “I love the rich history and small-town charm of Marietta. After cancer treatment, my family needed a chapter that allowed them to catch up on childhood memories they lost during the long 3 years of chemo”. Once her two sons graduated high school, she decided to pursue her lifelong dream: becoming a college graduate. She and her sons have 2 dogs: a chihuahua mix named Zoey and a black lab named Buddy. In her free time, she enjoys DIY home projects, gardening, connecting with dog friends, going on long walks, creating art, and encouraging her sons in their pursuits.

“Becoming a part of Phi Theta Kappa has given me so many opportunities to leave my comfort zone, meet amazing people, and have many new experiences. Phi Theta Kappa has given my life a renewed sense of purpose and I’m so grateful for that. I can’t wait to see what the future holds!”

Hello! My name is Annalise Smith, and I am the Western District Representative for the year 2023-2024. I am an early high school graduate for the class of 24’ of Global Impact STEM Academy and am projected to transfer and graduate following college this summer semester; I will be simultaneously earning my 2-year degree from Clark State College. Following graduation, I will be headed off to pursue a career in intelligence. I am enlisting into the Army as a 35M (Human Intel Collector) and hope to participate and pass PSYOP selection in the near future. While I am active, I plan to finish my 4-year degree in Political Science with a focus in International Relations. Although this may limit my term here at Phi Theta Kappa, I am absolutely thrilled for the time I do have! I love meeting and working with all types of people, and I am always open to chat. Please feel free to reach out to me whenever for whatever reason. I am also hoping to attend any events I can before I leave for basic training. So please reach out for any Honors in Action or College Project events you have coming up (etc.)! Thank you, Ohio-let’s make this year count!