Phi Theta Kappa
International Honor Society

July 2026
Volume 29 Issue 11

Beta Alpha Phi

Of Hudson County Community College
Jersey City, New Jersey

MSR Summer Institute, June 27



The Middle States Region hosted MSRLeads Summer Institute: Seed Your Future on June 26 and 27 at Brookdale Community College. Some chapters only attended on June 27. Peter Kongtcheu, Michelle Palacios, Noel Samonte, Angela Tuzzo, and Theodore Lai attended the Saturday session. Phi Theta Kappa programming including the College Project, Honors in Action Project, and Hallmark Awards were covered. Chapters worked together and had opportunities to socialize.

Over the years, the Summer or Honors Institute ran from Thursday to Sunday at a 4-year college. In 2025 and this year, the event was at a New Jersey community college on Friday and Saturday.

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Get Involved & Get Connected

Through these pages you will find scholarship information, volunteer opportunities, and general Phi Theta Kappa news. So get connected and get involved.

GET CONNECTED at www.ptk.org. You will be afforded a variety of services so check it out!

Welcome to Beta Alpha Phi

Alyssa Aguinaldo

Ilham AL Kacimy

Christopher Altamirano

Jody Cordero

Jazlene Estepan

Randy Gallo

Fausto Insuasti

Alyssa Johnson

Ionisa Latty

Ashley Ordonez

Anastasia Polanco

Lauryn Rivers

Evelyn Trevino

Warisha Umair

Amanda Umana

Lilly Vasco

Phi Theta Kappa Fall Scholarships
Deadline: December 1

https://www.ptk.org/scholarships/apply-now/

Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship
Application period
August 19-December 9

www,jkcf.org

SMART Scholarship
Application period
August 1-December 4

https://www.smartscholarship.org/smart/en

Hallmark Awards Deadlines

Advisor and Adminstrator
November 9

Member, Officer, College Project, and Honors in Action Project
January 11

Regional and Alumni
January 19

Beta Alpha Phi Officers 2025-2026

President
Peter Kongtcheu
pkongtcheu2321@live.hccc.edu

Vice President
Michelle Palacios
Mpalacios9198@live.hccc.edu

Vice President of Leadership
Camila Sanchez
Csanchez0805@live.hccc.edu

Vice President of Scholarship
Stephanie Cardenas
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Vice President of Public Relations
Ethan Barragan Navarrete
Ebarragannavarrete3471@live.hccc.edu

Vice President of Social Media
Noel Samonte
Nsamonte1867@live.hccc.edu

Vice President of Fellowship
Yamileh Flores
Yflores6573@live.hccc.edu

Vice President of Service

Secretary



Peter Kongtcheu, Michelle Palacios, Camila Sanches, Stephanie Cardenas, Ethan Barragan Navarrete, Noel Samonte, Yamileth Flores

Membership Packet

Have you received your membership packet?



Within a few weeks after the submission of your membership application, Phi Theta Kappa sends you a packet with your membership certificate, tassel, pin, and publications. If you have not received your packet, please inform Professor Lai.

T-shirts

One shirt is included with your membership.



Please contact Professor Lai.

Beta Alpha Phi Alumni Association

When you complete your studies at Hudson County Community College, you will become a member of the Beta Alpha Phi Alumni Association. To become involved, please contact Tiana Malcolm at tmalcolm5519@live.hccc.edu

Phi Theta Kappa Store

ptk.org/shop

Chapter's Webste
https://www.hccc.edu/student-success/studentlife-leadership/ptk.html

Beta Alpha Phi Advisors

Ms. Angela Tuzzo
Office: B104, 81 Sip Avenue
201-360-4197
atuzzo@hccc.edu
Professor Theodore Lai
Office: S305, 263 Academy Street
201-360-4264
tlai@hccc.edu

Chinatown Community Young Lions BBQ

Beta Alpha Phi has volunteered with the Chinatown Community Young Lions since 2013 after Genesis Avellaneda responded to a call for parade volunteers from the club



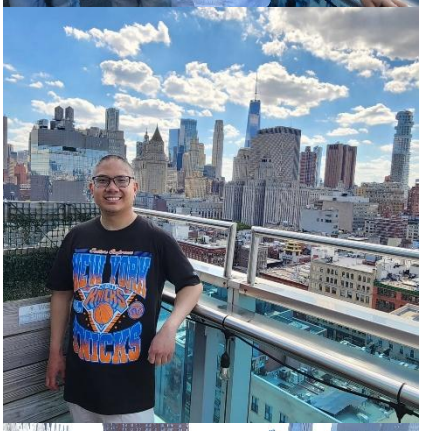
Genesis Avellaneda is second from the right

The Chinatown Community Young Lions invited volunteers to a rooftop BBQ on June 13. Alumni members Nube Cabrera, Sandra Kyu, Daryl Moreno, and Desiree Page, Sandra;s cousins Kelly and Katie, and Professor Lai attended the event at the Wyndham Garden Chinatown Hotel.













The Chinese New Year Parade will be on Saturday, February 6









Bayonne Nature Club

Fausto Insuasti volunteered the cleanup at Rutkowski Park on June 20. He joined eleven volunteers in picking up ten bags, a propane tank, and a 50-gallon garbage cart full of trash. The July cleanup will be by Lidl at the Harborview Market Place on July 11.







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Alumni: Desiree Page, Daryl Moreno, and Sarah Nesheiwat







Summer Institute

Continued from page 1











Distinguished Chapter

Distinguished Chapter Member Award

Distinguished Chapter Members are selected based on a student's embodiment of the Hallmarks of the Society and their active participation in the chapter. Members holding elected office at the chapter, regional or international levels are ineligible for this award. Team leaders or committee chairpersons may be nominated for this award if they are NOT considered chapter officers. A student may receive this award only once.

Distinguished Chapter Officer Awards

Distinguished Chapter Officers are selected based on the recipients' demonstration of leadership, promotion of PTK programs/benefits, and enthusiasm for the Society's Hallmarks. International Officers are not eligible for this award during their year of tenure. The chapter may nominate up to two individual officers for this category, including a chapter president. Team leaders or committee chairpersons who are not considered chapter officers may NOT be nominated for this award. A student may receive this award only once.

Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Awards

A chapter advisor may nominate their entire chapter officer team for this award. Officer teams should demonstrate collaboration, shared leadership, member engagement, promotion of Phi Theta Kappa opportunities, and enthusiasm for the Society's Hallmarks.

Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team Awards

A chapter may nominate their advisor team of two or more for this award. The advisors should demonstrate an exceptional atmosphere of teamwork, leadership abilities, promotion of Phi Theta Kappa programming and other engagement in the Society, and enthusiasm for the Society's Hallmarks. Advisors nominated for this award may also be nominated for other individual advisor awards. Chapter advisor teams are eligible to win this award every three years.

Advisor Individual Awards

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. Years of service will be based upon the advisor's start date reported to Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters.

Paragon Awards for New Advisors - Advisors with less than four years of service as of November 9, 2026. An advisor may receive this award only once.

Continued Excellence Awards for Advisors - Advisors must have already received the Distinguished Advisor Award. Continued Excellence Advisors are eligible to win this award every three years.

ADMINISTRATOR AWARDS Distinguished College Administrator Awards

The Distinguished College Administrator Awards are awarded to college vice presidents, deans or directors serving at a postsecondary institution with an active Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Nominees should have served in their position for at least three years as of November 9, 2026, and should have demonstrated during their tenure a strong level of support for the Society. Attendance at PTK Catalyst is NOT required for the acceptance of the award. A college administrator may receive this award only once. Each chapter may submit one nominee. College presidents, campus CEOs and state community college directors are **not** eligible for this award. Active Phi Theta Kappa advisors are **not** eligible and should be nominated for an advisor award. Up to 25 Distinguished College Administrator Awards may be presented each year.

Alumni Awards

Distinguished Alumni Association Awards

The Distinguished Alumni Association Awards recognizes alumni associations (community-based, region-based, or senior institution-based) that have been exemplary in meeting the mission of Phi Theta Kappa and conducting outstanding programs for the benefit of Phi Theta Kappa members.

Alumni Hall of Honor

The Alumni Hall of Honor recipients are selected based on the alumni's positive impact on chapters, the region, and individual Phi Theta Kappa members.

- Phi Theta Kappa chapters and regions are encouraged to recognize supportive alumni by nominating them for the Alumni Hall of Honor. A chapter advisor, on behalf of the chapter, may nominate one alumnus annually, and a regional coordinator, on behalf of the region, may nominate one alumnus annually.
- Nominees must have Phi Theta Kappa alumni status for at least three years. Up to 28 recipients may be selected - one per region.
- Affiliation with an Alumni Association is NOT required to be nominated.
- An alumnus may only receive this award once.
- An Alumni Advisory Board Member may not be nominated for this award during their term of service.

For more information on the Hallmark Awards, visit

https://connect.ptk.org/content/shared/HallmarkAwards

PTK EDGE™

Congratulations to these members who completed an Edge in June



Aaron Araza
Jourdan French



Aaron Araza
Ranseley Mendez



Aaron Araza



Aaron Araza
Amanda Ayerdis



Amanda Ayerdis



Aaron Araza
Amanda Ayerdis



Aaron Araza completed all six Edges

Leadership Development Studies

Kiara Reynoso completed Leadership Development Studies

Complete at least one Edge and get an honor cord to wear with your cap and gown at Commencement.

www.ptk.org/ptk-edge

.Graduating in Spring/Summer 2026?

See Professor Lai for the PTK stole, Edge pin, honor cord, or tassel. Since 2021, the tassel was mailed with the membership certificate and pin. The honor cord will be given to members who complete at least one Edge of PTK Edge. Pins will also be given for completion of Edges.

https://www.ptk.org/benefits/professional-development-courses/





These members completed Edges and received honor cords. Stoles and cords will be distributed to the December graduates in the fall semester.



Once again, Beta Alpha Phi is a Five-Star Chapter, 2026

Middle States Region



Middle States social media





Environmental Professionals (NJSWEP) Scholarship Program

Awards of $3,500 each will be given to two undergraduates and two graduate students.

https://www.njswep.org/njswep-scholarship-program

Check next spring

PTK EDGE™

PTK Edge is a free self-paced online professional development program.
https://www.ptk.org/benefits/professional-development-courses/

Set Yourself Apart

Competitive Edge is a self-paced professional development course that teaches students essential workplace skills. Students will learn how to think critically, advocate for themselves, communicate effectively, operate as part of a team, and conduct themselves professionally in the workplace.

Get the Job

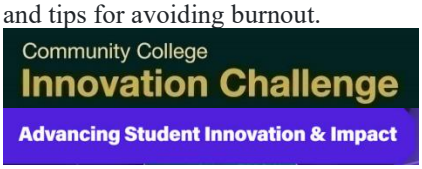
Employment Edge is a self-paced professional development course with a primary focus of preparing participants to successfully enter the workforce. It provides coaching on the actions participants need to take to achieve employment success.

Transfer to a University

Transfer Edge is a self-paced, interactive online course to prepare students of all backgrounds to successfully transfer from a two-year college to a four-year college.

Build Research Skills

Research Edge is a self-paced, interactive curriculum that teaches students the basics of academic research. The course also prepares students and advisors to begin work on Honors in Action projects.
Healthcare Edge is a self-paced professional development course that prepares students for a successful transition from their specific academic healthcare program to employment in the healthcare field
Advocacy Edge is an interactive, self-paced course designed to guide participants as they learn how to support a cause or policy. It teaches students the importance of being informed, how to collaborate, skills needed to communicate effectively, and tips for avoiding burnout.



https://beta.nsf.gov/news/nsf-aacc-announce-2022-community-college-innovation-challenge-winners

The Community College Innovation Challenge is led by the American Association of Community Colleges in partnership with the National Science Foundation. It is a national competition where community college student teams, working with a faculty mentor, use science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to innovate solutions to real-world problems; participate in an Innovation Boot Camp; and compete for cash awards.
Check the website for the opening in January 2027. Dr. Clive Li has been working with students on the projects. In 2026, "Hybrid Immersion Cooling for Long-Term AI Sustainability" by Elizabeth Maravillas and Neillands guided by Dr. Clive Li were among the top 3 winners.

From the Phi Theta Kappa Reach Blog

Applying for scholarships? Phi Theta Kappa's experts offer six practical tips for making your application the best it can be.
Four things you'll need for the application.
1. Know the Purpose. Scholarship purposes are like shoes. Many styles exist, but the fit is dependent upon the person. Knowing the purpose is powerful in finding the right-fit scholarship. Fun fact: to find out what PTK scholarships you're eligible for, take our Eligibility Quiz at scholarships.ptk.org.
2. Update Regularly. You'll miss 100 percent of the scholarship opportunities shots that you don't take by not updating your application. Login to PTK's Scholarship App at least once a semester to update or complete your app. Keep your application updated and relevant.
3. Meet the Requirements. Be honest on the eligibility quiz. Sounds so simple, right? Tricking the system to force an application open causes you to waste time if you aren't really eligible.
4. Apply Early. Get started working on your app as early as possible to provide ample time to finesse content before the deadline. Essays are usually the most heavily weighted item on an application. It's worth your effort to invest the most time on this portion of your application.

5. Get Personal. In it to win it? Let's get real — the more candid you are with telling your story and how it has motivated you in your personal and academic pursuits, the greater chance you'll have of your app resonating with a judge. Increase the odds of scoring well by telling your story well.
6. Proofing Party. Different strokes for different folks. Having multiple sets of eyes on your application can help strengthen entries, spot grammatical errors, and create cohesive content. Host a proofing party to inspire peer reviewing.

Scholarship Tips To Help You Get That Bag

by Caroline Sabsoul, Communications Coordinator at Phi Theta Kappa.

My first experience with the PTK Scholarship application was in the Spring of 2018. My advisor had a session to go over the application, how to complete the eligibility quiz, important questions to highlight, etc. As an international student, it was a breath of fresh air knowing we could apply for scholarships, as we are rarely eligible for those, so I was eager to submit my application. However, like any other student to ever live, things got in the way, I procrastinated a whole lot, submitted my app at the last minute and, once I wasn't selected for any scholarships, got really frustrated.
I knew, deep down, that I hadn't done my best to create an application that truly reflected my accomplishments. By then I was serving in leadership positions at my chapter, doing volunteering work, basically all the tools you need to make your application shine. Fast forward to 2019. After I graduated from my community college, the scholarship team reached out asking if I wanted to be a judge for the Fall scholarship cycle. I said yes, of course. Once I found out what judges look for in a winning application, I knew exactly why mine wasn't selected, and couldn't blame the judges at all, as I hadn't done half of what I could have. Here are a few tips to help you make the most out of your application, from a PTK member and scholarship judge:

Start early. As students, there's nothing we love more than procrastinating. Getting things done at the last minute is a skill we often boast about, but good scholarship applications can't be done in a day. Take your time to go over the app, separate the mini-essay questions you'll need more time with, and draft your responses to give yourself time to organize your thoughts.
It's all in the details. As a student, I didn't really understand the difference that including details made in the application, but they are probably the most important part of it. The judges don't know you; they don't know anything about what you've done and your accomplishments. Write your answers like you are telling a story, so judges can get an exact picture of what you've done, and the impact of it. Most questions will have a 250-word limit, and if you can, use it all. Don't fluff it, though!
Double-check the questions. Something I love about the PTK Scholarship app is that the questions are really straight forward. Every question in the app has a blue question mark next to it with details of exactly what judges will be looking for. Make sure to answer ALL parts of the question!
Invest in community service. Serving your community not only feels great but also makes your application stand out! The PTK Scholarship app has a tab dedicated to volunteerism, but you can expect to see some aspect of community service in any scholarship application you apply for. A great way to get some community service hours in is getting involved with your PTK chapter. The app also has a tab dedicated to your involvement with PTK, and while not having any involvement is **not** a deal breaker, getting involved can help make your app shine!
One final piece of advice to all PTK members: apply. Scholarship apps can be intimidating, but there is no chance of getting a scholarship if you don't apply for one. Check out the PTK Scholarship Resources, our YouTube Channel for scholarship webinars, and most importantly, reach out to Phi Theta Kappa if you have any questions. We are here to help every student succeed.

JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION
UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

The Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship provides up to $55,000 per year for up to three years for baccalaureate studies. Cooke Scholars are also eligible for up to $150,000 for graduate studies.

Nest application – August 9, 2026

Visit www.jkcf.org for information about the scholarship, Cooke Scholars, and tips on writing stronger application. You may also sign up to be on the mailing list to get notified of the application availability.

What are the selection criteria?

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation reviews each application individually with assistance from a panel of education experts. Among the criteria used in the selection process are:
•**Exceptional academic ability and achievement:** Strong academic record, academic awards and honors, and substantive assessments by educators providing recommendations.
-cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5
-participation in advanced courses
-commitment to learning
-intellectual curiosity
•**Unmet financial need:** We will consider applicants with family income up to $95,000.
•**Persistence:** Determination and perseverance in the face of challenges, ability to set and remain focused on goals and to put in the effort needed to meet those goals in the face of obstacles.
•**Leadership:** Ability to organize and positively influence others in school and out-of-school areas (family, religious community, sports, arts, etc.)
•**Service to Others:** Purposeful and meaningful commitment to others which may be evidenced by participation in volunteer/community service activities.





Contact
Genesis Castro, gcastro@yearup.org
Drew Marley, dmarley@yearup.org

PHI THETA KAPPA





www.americaneedsyou.org
ANY addresses the professional development gap for first-generation college students and is changing these outcomes.



Research Experience for Undergraduates

NSF funds a large number of research opportunities for undergraduate students through its REU Sites program. An REU Site consists of a group of ten or so undergraduates who work in the research programs of the host institution. Each student is associated with a specific research project, where he/she works closely with the faculty and other researchers. Students are granted stipends and, in many cases, assistance with housing and travel. Undergraduate students supported with NSF funds must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or its possessions. An REU Site may be at either a US or foreign location.

https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/

You may examine opportunities in the subject areas supported by various NSF units. Also, you may search by keywords to identify sites in particular research areas or with certain features, such as a particular location.

Hudson County Community College students have participated in the Queensborough Community College Research Experience for Undergraduates program for many summers. There are Research Experience for Undergraduates programs all over the country. Members have also participated in programs at Columbia University, Princeton University, Rutgers, and University of South Dakota.



https://www.ptk.org/reach-blog/2019/10/02/new-leadership-development-studies-course-is-here-and-online-only/

This is a game-changer: the sixth edition of Phi Theta Kappa's Leadership Development Studies curriculum is here, it's entirely online, and it's free for all members. Prior to the COVID-19 Lockdown, this course was not free.

You don't even need a textbook — the curriculum uses open source materials that are readily available and include readings, TED Talks, videos, podcasts, and film studies. The course is grounded in the Humanities and features Classic Cases and Leadership Profiles from history and literature, as well as active learning exercises, discussions, and leadership journals.

"We are ecstatic to not only introduce the new curriculum but to also make it accessible to every single one of our PTK members for free," said Susan Edwards, PTK's Associate Vice President of Honors Programming and Undergraduate Research. "We have seen powerful leaders emerge from this course and believe everyone should have the opportunity to develop their own leadership potential."

There are 10 units for the course (Do Unit One first. Then the other units may be done in any order):
Unit One: Developing a Personal Leadership Philosophy
Examine different views of leadership and establish the foundation for a personal leadership philosophy.
Unit Two: Leading by Serving
This unit explores servant leadership and demonstrates that leadership in any field requires you to do more than just lead; the important thing is to serve.
Unit Three: Understanding Ethical Leadership

Learn the concepts of personal and institutional social responsibility and social responsiveness, and survey the process of ethical reasoning and its tools.

Unit Four: Articulating a Vision
Inspiring a shared vision is one of the most difficult tasks a leader faces; explore the critical link between a leader's vision and his or her ability to communicate its essence powerfully.

Unit Five: Team Building
Discover how an effective leader engages in team-building activities to increase the effectiveness of groups and the satisfaction of individuals working in groups.

Unit Six: Leading With Goals
Learn why goals are the stepping stones to personal, interpersonal, and career development and are critical for effective leadership.

Unit Seven: Making Decisions

This unit investigates the process of decision making first from a personal perspective and then from a broader perspective, when decisions will affect many.

Unit Eight: Guiding Through Conflict
You'll learn that the leader's task is not to remove conflict but to choreograph it in order to reduce its harmful side effects, maximize its positive benefits, and maintain civility.

Unit Nine: Realizing Change
Discover why one of the most important tasks of the leader is to encourage the ongoing rejuvenation of a group or organization.

Unit Ten: Empowering Others
Empowerment is an important concept for effective leadership; explore different approaches and the varied ways leaders can empower others.

Enroll at
https://leadershipstudies.ptk.org/moodle/course/index.php?categoryid=3

www.ptk.org/ptk-edge

More Research Experience for Undergraduates Opportunties

https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.jsp?unitid=69&d-8001259-p=1

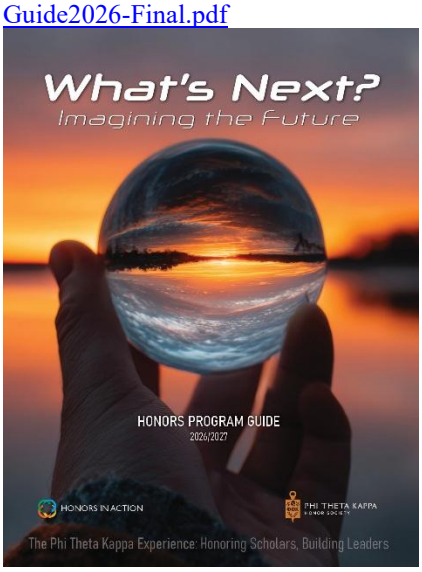
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Did you know that PTK members have exclusive access to transfer scholarships at 850+ transfer institutions? Explore your transfer options now at connect.ptk.org

HONORS IN ACTION
The Phi Theta Kappa Experience:
Honoring Scholars, Building Servant Leaders

Phi Theta Kappa's 2026-2027 Honors Study Topic is What's Next: Imaging the Future

https://connect.ptk.org/web_files/advisor/static_files/staticPagesImages/HonorsinActionResources/HonorsProgramGuide2026-Final.pdf





Finch College Alumni Scholarship

https://www.finchcollege.org/scholarships Check in January

Distinguished Chapter Member Award

To be completed by a current member

1. Describe briefly the most important ways your nominee participated as an active Phi Theta Kappa member. Include the nominee's ***specific*** contributions and results that impacted the outcome of the project due to the nominee's participation. Examples might include Honors in Action Project, College Project, Five Star Chapter Plan, member recruitment, participation in membership benefits, other engagement, etc.

2. Provide ***specific*** examples of how the nominee has positively influenced one or more chapter members (possible examples include member recruitment, motivation, mentoring, encouraging participation in chapter activities/PTK benefits, etc.)

3. Provide ***specific*** examples of how the nominee has distinguished themself from others in the chapter. Examples might include outstanding volunteer service, effective communication skills, sharing a skill unique to the member, or creative contribution to chapter/regional programs.

To be completed by an advisor

1. Describe how the nominee has served as a mentor or role model for other chapter members and college students. Provide evidence of this impact in terms of ***specific*** examples (number of students impacted, results of interactions, etc.)

2. Describe how the nominee has cooperated with officers, members, and others outside the chapter to achieve success within the chapter.

The new nomination form will be available in the fall

Kaplan Leadership Program

https://Kaplanedfoundation.org/apply

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Here are the answers to a few FAQs:

- KLP provides students with leadership development, transfer advising, individualized application support, and short-term financial support.
- To be eligible, students must:
  - Have a minimum 3.5 GPA
  - Have completed a minimum of 24 non-remedial credits by the end of the Spring 2026 semester
  - Be a US citizen or permanent resident
  - Qualify for federal financial aid

Neivi Nuez and Emmanuel Rodriquez are Kaplan Scholars 2026.

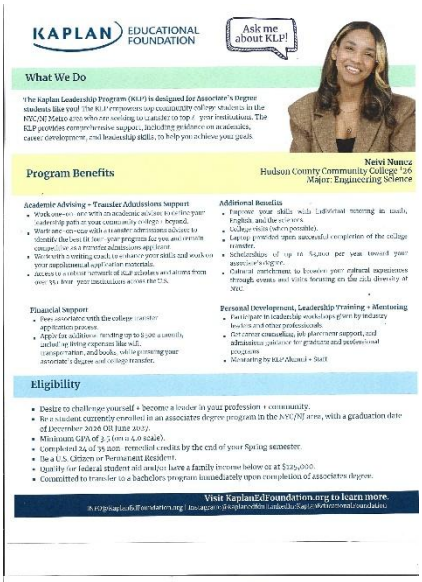
Other Kaplan Scholars from Hudson County Community College.

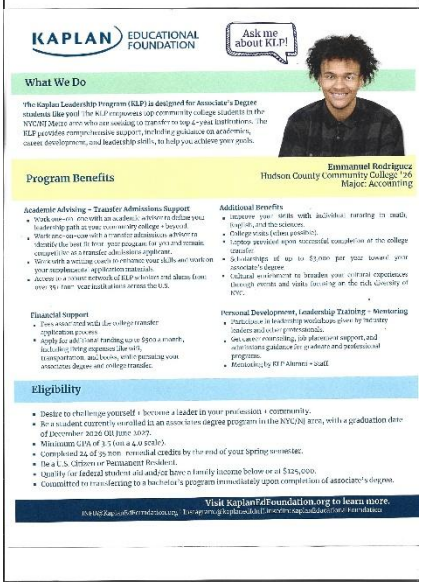


Angel Beebe, Smith College, 2025

Check in 2027..

https://Kaplanedfoundation.org/apply







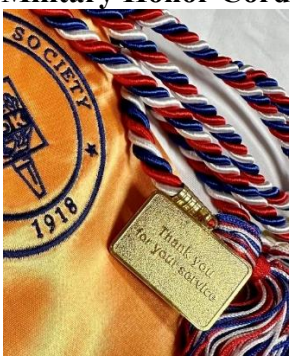
Paula Mayorga, Mount Holyoke College, 2024

The Women on Par Scholarship

The "Women on Par" Scholarship Program, provided by the LPGA Foundation, was established in 2007 by the EWGA Foundation (now the LPGA Amateur Golf Association) to provide financial assistance to "non-traditional" female students. These scholarships are intended for women, aged 30 and older, who are attending a college or university for the first time or returning to school after an absence to complete their technical/vocational, Associate, or Bachelor's degree. The scholarships are designed to help these women get "on par," or get an equal footing, with their peers, friends, and other women who have had a chance to complete their college education.

Check for the next application https://lpgaamateurs.com/memberships/scholarship/

Military Honor Cord



Phi Theta Kappa is so honored to provide no-cost military honor cords to all veteran and active duty PTK members.
To request a military cord, e-mail your military service proof to store@ptk.org.

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." – Barack Obama



NJ REENTRY CORPORATION

The New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) is a non-profit agency to assist citizens returning from incarceration to join the workforce. Contact Jada Fulmore, Director of NJ ReEntry Kearny at jfulmore@njreentry.org about volunteer opportunities.

NY RR OPEN Run NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS

The Open Run is held on Sundays at Lincoln Park and other locations. Volunteers are needed.
nyrr.org/openrun/volunteer

Dvine Konektion Community Development Corporation
611 56th Street. West New York 201-617-4484
www.dvinek.org
https://www.facebook.com/dvinekwny/
Each month, a Health and Wellness Community Fair is held to groceries, free medical screenings, and other supplies, and services. Contact to volunteer.

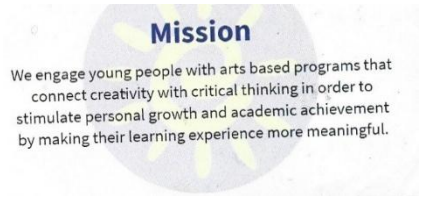
Friends of Liberty State Park
To preserve, protect, conserve, and promote Liberty State Park

Gardening, Liberty State Park, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Register at www.jerseycares.org

Friends of Liberty State Park 5K Run/Walk
October 10
U. S. Flag Plaza
Liberty State Park

Friends of Liberty State Park Annual Picnic, July 26





Education Arts Team welcomes volunters. Contact Roxy Arrojo.
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RUTGERS Cooperative Extension



Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation

PFF Walk
August 30
Liberty State Park

Register at

https://www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org/get-involved/events/pff-walk/pff-walk-volunteer-interest-form

mercy for my neighbor

www.mercyformyneighbor.org

Volunteers are needed for different services including food distribution, meals, and clothing distribution.

Mercy for my neighbor is located at738 John F Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 3, Jersey City NJ 07305 but it provides services around Hudson County.

Hackensack RIVERKEEPER
PROTECT, PRESERVE, RESTORE

https://www.hackensackriverkeeper.org/rivercleanupprogram
Cleanup in Hudson County

Sat. August 22, 09:00 am - 12:00 pm
Rutkowski Park Cleanup, Hackensack River Walk, Bayonne, NJ 07002

Registration opens about 3 weeks in advance

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." – Muhammad Ali

ZERO PROSTATE CANCER RUN/WALK

Saturday, November 21
Liberty State Park

https://volunteer.zerocancer.org/registrations/LXcGC4NjBQ?

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital St. Jude walk

https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?pg=informational&fr_id=164566&type=fr_informational&sid=12952&s_promoCode=volunteer
Sunday, September 20
Rockefeller Park
175 Battery Place, NY

2026-2027 International Officers



José Fuentes
President
Alpha Mu Chi Chapter
Northeast Texas Community College
Mount Pleasant, Texas



Endri Dobrovoda
Division I Vice President
Alpha Epsilon Phi Chapter
Bergen Community College
Paramus, New Jersey

Catherine Derival
Division II Vice President
Xi Pi Chapter
Polk State College
Winter Haven, Florida



Samuel Pembele
Division III Vice President
Beta Pi Beta Chapter
Metropolitan Community College
Omaha, Nebraska

Krisy Rachal
Division IV Vice President
Chi Gamma Chapter
Tacoma Community College
Tacoma, Washington

2026-2027 Middle States Officers



Isabella Gonzalez, Middle States President, Alpha Eta,Chi, Passaic County Community College and **Cristina Fama**, New Jersey State President, Alpha Pi Theta, Brookdale Community College



Evelina Ines Morillo Monegro, Pennsylvania State President, Alpha Sigma Rho, Reading Area Community College and **Gold Elue**, Delaware State President, Alpha Epsilon Zeta, Delaware Technical Community College. Stanton



Sibel Galindo, Maryland State President. Alpha Delta Sigma, Frederick Community College and **Beixi Chen**, Executive Vice President. Alpha Epsilon Phi, Bergen Community College

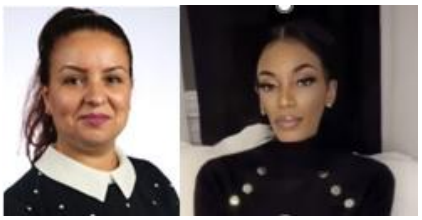


Brandon Fawra, Vice President of Leadership. Alpha Zeta Kappa, Delaware Technical Community College, Wilmington

Beta Alpha Phi Alumni Association



Vice President Diego Villatoro
Vice President – Marlenne Andalia



Vice President- Sarra Hayoune
President - Tiana Malcolm

Department of Defense (DoD)
Scholarship-for-Service Program
DoD STEM Scholarships & Grants - SMART Scholarship
Opens in August

Spring Scholarship Application
scholarships.ptk.org
January 6-May 15

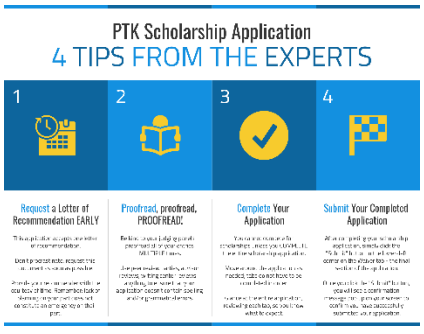
Member Benefits

https://www.ptk.org/benefits/member-discounts/
Check www.ptk.org/store for discounts

Chapter's Website

Phi Theta Kappa webpage on the Hudson County Community College website:

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) | Hudson County Community College (hccc.edu)



How Honors in Action® Works

Connect with the chapter officers and other students to identify and research a theme from the current Honors Study Topic and an issue on your campus or in your larger community. Then, you'll turn that research into a plan of action that meets a specific need in your area. You'll expand your worldview and be able to give back through service — a win-win.

Through these experiences, students build practical and academic skills. By working closely with both their peers as well as campus and community leaders, students will learn not only how to research an issue but also how to utilize resources and build professional relationships.

The 2026-2027 Honors Study is
What's Next? Imagining the future

https://connect.ptk.org/content/shared/honorsinactionresources

Theme 1
What influence will relationships and identity have on how people interact with an ever-changing world in the future?

Theme 2
How will people recognize the appropriate need, time, and manner for separation and reconciliation in the future?

Theme 3
How will people navigate the tensions between conviction and cultural expectations in the future?

Theme 4
How will future societies balance individual liberties and social responsibilities?

Theme 5
How can migration and exchange influence the future of communities?

Theme 6
In what ways can data in all its forms influence decision-making for the future?

Theme 7
Where and how will humans live, work, and play in the future?

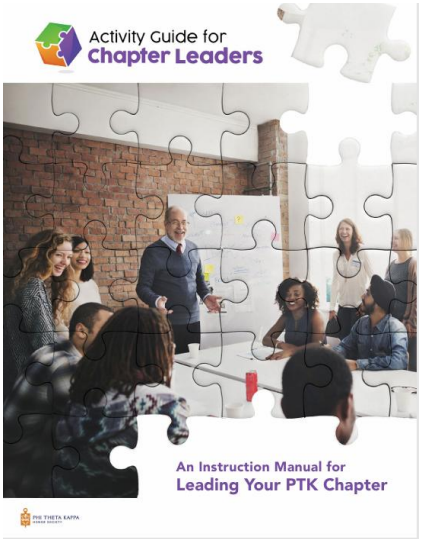
Theme 8
How can humans design a better future, and what barriers stand in the way?

The College Project: Becoming Your College's Best Ally

The College Project is designed to help your chapter develop and/or strengthen a supportive working relationship with your college administration.

Administrative support is essential for all active Phi Theta Kappa chapters – funding their travel, granting access to campus resources, and celebrating in person the chapter's inductions. Instead of asking for a handout, *this* is your opportunity to offer a hand with whatever the college needs to support its mission.

The project can be *anything* that benefits the college and is *approved* by the college administration – preferably the campus president/CEO.



https://connect.ptk.org/content/shared/ActivityGuide

This guide breaks down the most important activities of an engaged Phi Theta Kappa chapter with easy-to-follow instructions, samples you can customize to meet your needs, and lots of ways to build your leadership skills while you're growing a strong chapter.

Year Up

https://www.yearup.org/

"Year Up enables young adults to move from minimum wage to meaningful careers in just one year."

"Year Up's mission is to close the Opportunity Divide by ensuring that young adults gain the skills, experiences, and support that will empower them to reach their potential through careers and higher education."

A six-month internship is part of the program.

Jeannette Rankin WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jeannette Rankin National Scholar Grant - Jeannette Rankin (rankinfoundation.org)

•Must be a woman or nonbinary age 35 or older meeting the financial requirements

• A U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident of the United States.

Application: Opens on November 11

Graduating in 2025-2026 Academic Year?

Apply for the Fall Scholarships, not the Spring Scholarships.

Deadline: December 2

scholarships.ptk.org



The Beta Alpha Phi Awards Cabinet is in S306. A new cabinet is in the STEM lobby.



https://www.smartscholarship.org/smart

SMART Scholars are provided with the tools required to pursue their STEM education and begin their career in a prestigious civilian position with the Department of Defense (DoD).
Benefits include: Full tuition and education related educational expenses (meal plans, housing, and parking not included)

- Stipend paid at a rate of $25,000 - $38,000 a year depending on degree level (may be prorated depending on award length)
- Summer research internships ranging from 8 to 12 weeks
- Health Insurance allowance of up to $1,200 per academic year
- Miscellaneous allowance of up to $1,000 per academic year
- An experience mentor at one of the Sponsoring Facilities
- Employment placement at a DoD facility upon degree completion.

Application period
August 1 to December 1

Some requirements are United States citizenship, 18 years old by August1, 2022, degree in STEM, and minimum GPA of 3.0

You may apply for the scholarship for undergraduate and graduate studies at the same time.

HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

http://hsf.net

https://apply.hsf.net/
https://www.hsf.net/en_US/scholarship

Honors Case Study Challenge

https://portal.ptk.org/Programs/HonorsinAction/HonorsCaseStudyChallenge.aspx

Award: $500
Deadline: November 7

• Read online or print newspaper articles of varying viewpoints between January 1 and November 1, 2023.
•Select five newspaper articles with varying viewpoints on a single topic related to the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Study Topic, *To the Seventh Generation: Inheritance and Legacy*.
Go to the website for more information.

Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship

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, a total of $200,000 in scholarships annually. Of these awards, 25 scholarships are earmarked for current members of the military or military veterans.

The Phi Theta Kappa Global Leaders of Promise scholarship program provides new Phi Theta Kappa members who are international students with financial resources to help defray educational expenses while enrolled in a two-year college.
Deadline: May 15



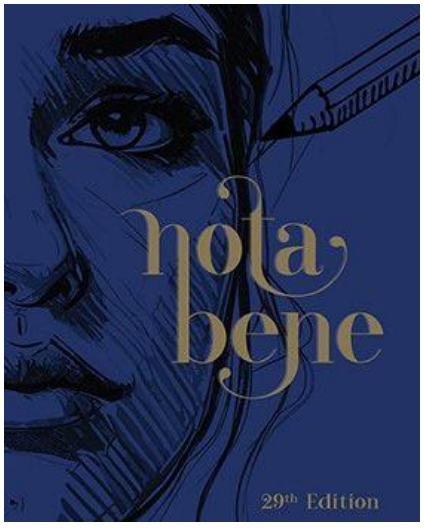
Phi Theta Kappa's FREE online search tool for transfer scholarships, colleges and career pathways



Membership Card

Calling all members and alumni! You can now be a card-carrying member of PTK - check Phi Theta Kappa's new membership card under your profile when you log into connect.ptk.org.





Past issues of Nota Bene are available at www.ptk.org
https://www.ptk.org/scholarships/nota-bene-literary-competition/.*Nota Bene*, Latin for "note well," is Phi

Theta Kappa's honors anthology. It recognizes outstanding writing of Phi Theta Kappa members and demonstrates to the literary public the academic excellence and commitment to scholarship found at two-year colleges. The first issue of *Nota Bene* was published in 1994; it has been published annually ever since. Some authors will received $500 or $1,000.

Opens in Fall 2026

www.hacu.net

Resource for scholarships, internships, and other opportunities for students of any ethnicity. Hudson County Community College is a member of HACU.

Phi Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship will help Phi Theta Kappa members overcome unanticipated financial barriers preventing the completion of a student's first college credential, an associate degree or certificate. Visit scholarships.ptk.org/

Scholarship Resources

www.collegescholarships.org
www.brokescholar.com
www.cksf.org
www.free-4u.com
www.collegeraptor.com
www.fastweb.com
www.finaid.org
www.hsf.net
www.knowhow2go.org
www.scholarships.com
www.scholarshipamerica.org
www.TRPI.org
www.zinch.com
www.jkcf.org
www.hccc.edu/scholarships
www.hccc.edu/countyscholarships
www.aauw.org/education/fga/scholarships.cfm
www.sciencewise.com
www.aicpa.org
www.studentscholarships.org

FREYA MOSKOWITZ STERNSCHOLARSHIP

Finch College Alumni Association

$5,000 scholarship, awarded in two disbursements, for females at least 22 years old transferring to any accredited 4-year college in September. The 2026 application will be available in early 2026. deadline: May 1
https://www.finchcollege.org/scholarship
Required documents: application, essay, resume, transcript, proof of age, proof of United States citizenship or permanent residence, two letters of recommendations.

Scholarship Resource

http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/browse-by-category/category/17

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America Needs You
America Needs You is an American non-profit organization with headquarters in New York City. ANY pairs low-income college students, who are first in their family to go to college, with mentors. It provides professional development mentoring and job placement services to its clients.

Are you an ambitious first-generation college student?
The America Needs You (ANY) Fellows Program is an intensive two-year program for high-achieving, low-income, first-generation college students. The program has four components:

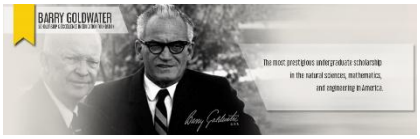
1. **Intensive Career Development:** ANY follows a best in class curriculum focused on professional skills, career exploration, college completion, and personal growth. The program provides up to 28 full-day workshops over the course of two years.
2. **One-on-One Mentorship:** Each student (Fellow) is matched one-on-one with a mentor (Mentor Coach), who attends full-day workshops with the Fellow, resulting in up to 220 hours of mentoring over the two-year program. Mentor Coaches provide industry insight and connections as well as help Fellows set goals and stay on track academically and professionally.
3. **Robust Networks:** Fellows interact with thousands of diverse professionals through workshops, Career Days (on-site employer visits), and internship/job opportunities at companies. These opportunities allow Fellows to grow their professional,

academic and social networks.

4. **Holistic Support:** ANY supports Fellows in overcoming personal and academic challenges, such as transfer support for Fellows enrolled in community college. The program also provides up to $2,000 in grants and in-kind contributions over the two years, including business attire.

https://www.americaneedsyou.org/our-programs/programs-overview/

Check in January for the 2023 program.



Goldwater Scholarship

https://goldwater.scholarsapply.org/

The 2024application opened in September 2023. Deadline: January 2024

The Goldwater Scholarship Program, one of the oldest and most prestigious national scholarships in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics in the United States, seeks to identify and support college sophomores and juniors who show exceptional promise of becoming this Nation's next generation of research leaders in these fields.

The characteristics the Foundation seeks in a Goldwater Scholar include:

strong commitment to a research career in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering,

effective display of intellectual intensity in the sciences, mathematics and engineering, and potential for a significant future contribution to research in their chosen field.

PHI THETA KAPPA

ALL-USA ACADEMIC TEAM

The All-USA Community College Academic Team recognizes high achieving two-year college students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. Twenty team members are named annually with each receiving a $2,500 scholarship, a total of $50,000 in scholarship awards. In addition to scholarships, team members are featured in the USA TODAY newspaper and presented at the annual President's Breakfast held during the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention. July 28-December 2

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY
Guistwhite SCHOLAR

The Guistwhite Scholarships recognize Phi Theta Kappa members for outstanding academic achievement, leadership accomplishment and engagement in Phi Theta Kappa programs and is designed to assist in the members' attainment of baccalaureate degrees. Phi Theta Kappa annually awards up to 20 scholarships of $5,000 each.

The application period: July 28 to December 2.

H

HITES SCHOLARSHIP

The Hites Transfer Scholarship recognizes outstanding academic achievement, engagement in college and community activities, and leadership accomplishment of Phi Theta Kappa members preparing to transfer to senior institutions in pursuit of baccalaureate degrees. Phi Theta Kappa annually awards up to 10 scholarships of $7,500 each. The application is opened: July 28-December 2

Eligibility

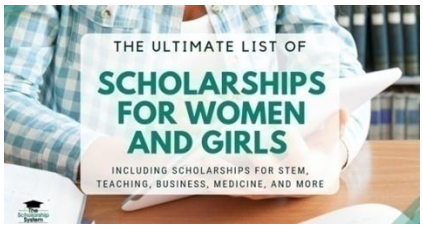
The All-USA Academic Team, Hites Scholarship, and Guistwhite Scholarship are part of the Fall Common Application closes on December 1at www.ptk.org

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

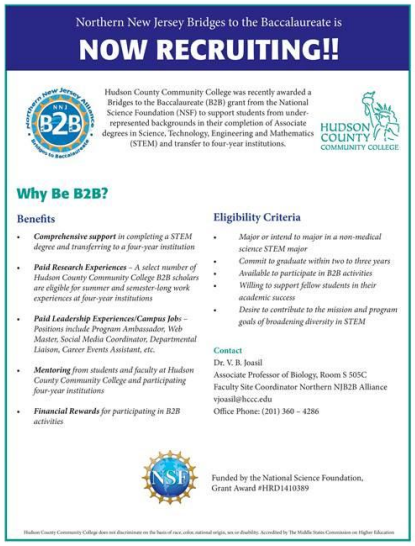
Hudson County Community College Foundation has been operating since 1997. The Foundation works to develop income for needs-based and merit scholarships and to provide seed money for new and innovative student programs at HCCC. New students entering HCCC or currently enrolled students with GPA's of 2.0 to 4.0 are eligible for scholarships. ESL & Academic Foundations students are eligible for scholarships. Hudson County Community College Foundation offers a variety of scholarships to qualified applicants. Students may receive one Foundation Scholarship in a given semester. Scholarships must be used in the academic year for which they are awarded. Students receiving

scholarships must be enrolled in a degree-seeking matriculated program. Students may reapply for scholarships each spring. Deadline: July 1

The website lists scholarships from Hudson County Community College and other sponsors.
https://www.hccc.edu/paying-for-college/scholarships/index.html



https://thescholarshipsystem.com/blog-for-students-families/the-ultimate-list-of-scholarships-for-women-and-girls/?fbclid=IwAR2L7kugdrIUeLLSus-6JddB0PrTTA_v7TAFEAZcut-IS2GXrkM4aMAWvSo



Contact Professor Fidelis Kahouo, Faculty Site Coordinator Northern NJB2B Alliance
fkahouo@hccc.edu(201) 360 – 5348, S505

KAPLAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

http://www.kaplanedfoundation.org/become-a-scholar/apply-to-be-a-kaplan-scholar/

The Kaplan Leadership Program removes many of your financial burdens, allowing you to complete your associate's degree and earn a bachelor's degree. The Kaplan Leadership Program shows you how to take control of your future, change your life, and achieve your academic and career goals. Program benefits include:
*Academic advising and transfer admissions support to help you transition from your associate's degree program to a bachelor's degree program
*Financial support that allows you to focus on school
*Personal development, training, and mentoring
*Cultural Enrichment Opportunities
The 2026 application will close on May 31



Students at NISOD member colleges are invited to participate in the Student Graphic Design Contest and design the official Conference Program for NISOD's 2027 International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, the definitive gathering of community and technical college faculty, administrators, and staff seeking best and promising practices designed to improve student achievement.
It is at each member college's discretion how it determines what artwork is submitted to NISOD for consideration. Opens in September.
Award: $1,000 and more
Up to $400 for travel to Austin, Texas
Up to three nights lodging (Saturday, Sunday, Monday nights only) and one complimentary conference registration.

For more information, go to https://www.nisod.org/membership/student-graphic-design-contest/

Check in the fall semester



http://nisod.org/?q=scott-wright-student-essay-contest

Student authors are asked to describe a faculty member, staff member, or administrator who encouraged them to complete a course, finish a semester, or graduate from college, and how that encouragement helped them reach their goal(s) in 500 words or less.

Check in the fall semester

3 Awards

Each winner and the essay's subject will get $1,000, a complimentary conference registration to the International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence (May in Austin, Texas), complimentary hotel room (maximum three nights), and up to $400 towards transportation costs to the conference. Each winning student author's college will receive a complimentary membership. The winning student essays will be published on *Community College Week*'s and NISOD's websites along with the photos and names of the winning student authors; the featured employees; and the winning student authors' college presidents.



Spring Scholarships Webinar

Also Good Tips for the Fall Scholarships

In 2022, Phi Theta Kappa hosted a webinar to assist with the preparation of the Spring Scholarship Application.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XUcwGh_iDE\

bike MS
bike to create a world free of MS

October 18, Pier 76, 35th Street and 12th Avenue

https://nmss.galaxydigital.com/need/index?s=1&need_init_id=15791

Scholarships Administered by Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa administers scholarships using a common application. Applicants may apply for one scholarship on the common application or multiple scholarships at the same time. The Fall Scholarship Application opens in the summer and the Spring Application opens in the winter. .www.scholarships.ptk.org

Fall Scholarships

All scholarships administered on the Fall Scholarship Application are for use by students who are almost finished with their associate degree coursework and intend to enter the work force or intend to transfer to an accredited four-year college to complete a baccalaureate degree for the following upcoming academic year. When you begin an online application, you will first be required to take and pass an eligibility quiz which will help you determine your eligibility for the following scholarships.
Deadline: December 1

Hites Transfer Scholarship

Guistwhite Scholarship

All-USA Community College Academic Team

Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team

New Century Scholars

All-State Community College Academic Team

Spring Scholarships

Scholarship Application are for use by students who are relatively new community college students and plan to attend the community college for associate degree coursework for the upcoming academic year. When you begin an online application, you will first be required to take and pass an eligibility quiz which will help you determine your eligibility for the following scholarships. Opens in January, Deadline: May 15

Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship

Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise

Richard L. Resurreccion Public Safety Scholarship

Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship awarded each month

scholarships.ptk.org #PTKScholarships

Fall Application Deadline
December 1

Spring Application Deadline
May 15

Phi Theta Kappa Spring Scholarships - the application is open

https://portal.ptk.org/Scholarships/AssociateDegreeScholarships.aspx

https://portal.ptk.org/Scholarships/OtherScholarships.aspx

https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx

Calendar of Events

*July 11 **Bayonne Nature Club Cleanup**, Harborview Market Place, 9-11 am
*July 26 **Friends of Liberty State Park Annual Picnic**, 200 Conrad Drive
*August 19 **Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship** Opens
*August 30 **PFF Walk**, Liberty State Park
*September 20 **St. Jude Walk**, Rockefeller Park, New York City
*October 10 **Friends of Liberty State Park 5K Run/Walk**, 8:00 am
*October 18, **Bike MS**, Pier 76, New York City
*November 21 **Zero Prostate Cancer Walk/Run**, Liberty State Park
*February 6 **Chinese New Year Parade**



Professor Raffi Manjkian and Dante DeGregoda at the Spring Induction, May 1

Phi Theta Kappa
International Honor Society
263 Academy Street, S305
Jersey City, New Jersey07306

2026-2027 Honors Study Topic
What's Next? Imagining the future

For full details visit
www.ptk.org/honors/guide

Friends of Liberty State Park Gardening Program
9:00 am-12:00 pm
Saturday
201-915-3402 ext. 101
Sign up at
www.jerseycares.org

www.ptk.org

middle-states-region.ptk.org

Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/322464417875149/
X: http://www.twitter.com/ptkbap
Instagram: **@HCCC_PTK**
Snapchat: **phithetakappa2017**

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHI THETA KAPPA