



February 26, 2014

MSCC Establishes Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society Chapter

Mid-South Community College has established a chapter of the Sigma Kappa Delta honor society to recognize English language and literature students who excel in the classroom and in the community.

“The English department is excited about it, and the students are super excited about it,” said Stephanie Eley, Lead Faculty for Fine Arts and Communication at MSCC.

“Our students have been enthusiastic since Day 1, and people have really been asking us about it.

“We hope having a Sigma Kappa Delta chapter brings more recognition to our students and our college and instills an even greater sense of pride in our students.”



Founded in 1996 at Cottey College for Women in Missouri, Sigma Kappa Delta is the two-year institution equivalent of Sigma Tau Delta, the national English honor society for four-year colleges and universities. Its headquarters are located at Calhoun Community College in Alabama.

With more than 100 active chapters in the United States and approximately 2,500 members inducted annually, SKD recognizes two-year college students’ English excellence throughout the nation. The official motto of the Society includes its initials and its ideals: sincerity, knowledge, and design.

Eley said the idea for establishing a chapter came while faculty members reviewed the College’s operational plan last fall.

“We’re always trying to create more extracurricular opportunities for our students, and this is an excellent one,” she said. “The organization has a lot of benefits for students, including scholarships for winners of poetry, essay, and photography contests.”

English faculty members talked with their students about establishing a chapter at MSCC and received many positive responses.

“We asked instructors to announce the possibility in their classes to gauge the interest,” Eley said. “Everyone had the majority of their class say they were interested, so we pursued it. I looked on the website and pulled all of the materials together, and we received our charter during the Christmas break.”



Thirteen students and three faculty members will be inducted on Monday, March 31, on the MSCC campus. Following the induction ceremony, the local chapter will elect officers for the balance of the 2013-14 academic year. Eley and Jacob Hutchinson are serving as advisors for the first-year group.

To qualify for membership, students must complete at least one college course in English language or literature (MSCC courses with ENGL prefixes) with no grade(s) lower than a B. An overall 3.0 GPA is required, and students must complete 12 college hours before being considered for membership. In addition, all persons seeking admittance to SKD must exhibit high standards of personal and professional character and support the purposes of the honor society.

Word is circulating about the new organization, and interest is growing.

“We’ve had more students apply for or express interest in SKD since establishing the charter membership, and we’ll include them at the next induction,” Eley said.

Six of the charter members will graduate in May, and they will have the opportunity to wear green and gold honor cords at the ceremony.

“I think that will generate some additional interest on our campus,” Eley said. “As we’re more visible and people realize who we are and what we do, I’m optimistic we’ll attract more members.”

Eley said the organization hopes to follow in the footsteps of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society chapter at MSCC. All of the SKD members are also active in PTK.

“We hope to do some fundraisers and other community service events, similar to what Phi Theta Kappa does,” Eley said. “We’re also hoping to reach out to area alumni for their participation. We have a lot of big plans for the organization.”

In honor of Read Across America Day 2014, Sigma Kappa Delta scheduled a Spoken Word Poetry Reading Contest for Monday, March 3. Eley said that is just the beginning.

For more information on Sigma Kappa Delta, other extracurricular opportunities, or education/training programs at Mid-South Community College, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, call (870) 733-6728, email admissions@midsouthcc.edu, or see the college’s website at www.midsouthcc.edu.