**College Project Award - Application**

Question 1

**Briefly describe your College Project and who from the chapter and the college administration was involved in determining it?**

***Word Count Limit:*** *The essay responses for the entire application cannot exceed 1200 words. No limit is given for each essay question, but to the application as a whole.*

Answer:

Upon returning from Christmas break the Beta Delta Phi Chapter members, officers, and advisors met and discussed continuing the tradition of serving refreshments and fulfilling the role of ambassadors on the first two days of classes to welcome new and returning students and faculty, on both Black River Technical College (BRTC) campuses. After agreeing on this course of action, the officers and advisors met with the president of Black River Technical College, Mr. Richard Gaines, to present this concept for discussion. After a deliberation of the pros and cons of the proposed project, Mr. Gaines offered his endorsement of Beta Delta Phi’s “welcome back” event as the college project for the spring semester. Similar discussion was made before the Fall semester with the newly appointed president of Black River Technical College, Dr. Wayne Hatcher.

Question 2

**Summarize your objectives for the College Project and the process by which the chapter and college administration set these objectives.**

Answer:

Both the former college president Mr. Gaines and new college president Dr. Hatcher, along with the Phi Theta Kappa chapter officers, felt Beta Delta Phi members serving as ambassadors for BRTC would give students and faculty a warm welcome back. Welcoming new students would make the first two days of each semester more relaxed and less stressful. The Phi Theta Kappa members were available to offer assistance in locating classrooms, buildings, faculty offices, distinguishing between the library and bookstore, registration and financial aid office, additional administrative areas, student lounges, and even snack machines to numerous students. Providing such services to new students on their first days of college makes them feel more comfortable, and offers them the much needed help they deserve.

Question 3

**Describe the planning process and strategies developed to complete the College Project.**

Answer:

The chapter discussed several ideas for different types of refreshments with the decision to serve fresh baked cookies, hot cocoa, and coffee for the spring semester, and cookies and slushies in the fall semester. Along with serving refreshments, we distributed fliers to the students introducing them to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and answered questions about the requirements to become a member. We decided the Administration building would be an appropriate place for the project, because of it being a well-traveled part of campus. New students who may be seeking assistance would pass through the area, and PTK members could assist them. Both BRTC presidents gave their approval to hold the project in the Administration building. The officers discussed the need for officers and members to assist in manning the booth. The officers determined the best plan for contacting members. They started making telephone calls, sending out e-mails, and posting a notice on Moodle asking for volunteers for the project. If the member was able to participate, they were asked to notify one of the chapter advisors, Dr. Moss on the Pocahontas campus, or Mrs. Hall on the Paragould campus. The officers set up for the project the Thursday before classes started. The setup consisted of the Phi Theta Kappa banner, a table with the coffee pots or slush machine, oven, and Phi Theta Kappa fliers. The members signed up to volunteer at the times they had available, and the officers made the needed adjustments in their schedule to fill the vacancies in the schedule. The chapter maintained its area from 8 am until 6 pm both days. The officers posted welcome back messages on the doors of the buildings and on the information screens around campus. These welcome back messages included details about the refreshments being served by Phi Theta Kappa members in the administration building.

Question 4

**What were the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of your project, including the lessons learned by your chapter members and others?**

Answer:

In the first two days of both the Spring and Fall semesters Phi Theta Kappa members served about 1316 students and faculty and close to 1804 cookies on the Pocahontas campus. The Paragould campus participated for the first time in January 2011, Paragould campus was able served 738 cookies to about 659 students and faculty their first time participating. Phi Theta Kappa members performed the roles of ambassadors by assisting around 742 students on the Pocahontas campus with needed information. Many of the new students were nervous and needed a little assistance adjusting to the new surroundings. This project gave members the chance to be role models as well as ambassadors for BRTC. The chapter members learned there are a lot of students who are in need of assistance and a friendly face. The chapter members also learned it takes teamwork to make this endeavor a success. When the first two days of the semester were over, the project did not just stop. In addition to setup prior to the event, there is the task of taking down and cleaning up afterward, at a time when most people do not want to be involved. After the event, Beta Delta Phi officers met with the administration to get feedback and to plan for future events.

Question 5

**What is left undone or what opportunities remain for the future?**

Answer:

Beta Delta Phi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa could aid more first time students to make their transition from high school to the college environment more enjoyable. Beta Delta Phi members could make students’ transition from high school to college a little easier and less painful. Older students who return to college after being out of school for years need additional support as many are terrified to return to college, but must because of economic downturn. Members could also assist non-traditional students who are returning to college feel more at ease with starting back as they embark on a new future. As an honor society Beta Delta Phi chapter members feel we could have improved this project by seeking ways to continue as ambassadors beyond the first two days of the semester. Chapter members could aspire to become better role models to BRTC students, by assisting them more in their studies, by looking for ways to motivate them to succeed in the learning process, and by encouraging them to graduate with their chosen degree.