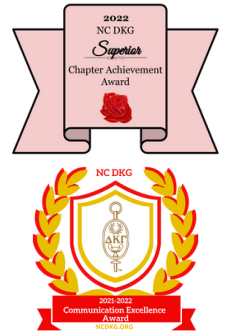




The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
NC DKG North Carolina State Organization
Delta Sigma Chapter
Lincoln County
Region X

DELTA SIGMA LINC

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The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Education

Kennan Eaddy

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming many fields, and education is no exception. From personalized learning to automating administrative tasks, AI is making inroads into schools and universities.

What exactly is AI? Simply put, it is technology that mimics human intelligence. AI systems can analyze data, recognize patterns, and make decisions or predictions. This enables computers to perform tasks like understanding speech, identifying images, recommending content, and more.

In education, AI can support both teachers and students. It can assess students' strengths and weaknesses to design customized lesson plans. Chatbots act as digital tutors that provide extra support outside the classroom. And AI can automate tedious processes like grading, creating rubrics, or writing newsletters, freeing up teachers' time.

Of course, AI has limitations and raises concerns. Educators worry it may replace human roles and interactions. But if implemented thoughtfully, AI can enhance rather than replace traditional teaching. It gives teachers more insight into each student's needs. Interest in classroom AI is rapidly rising. As this technology evolves, we'll continue exploring the right balance of human teachers and artificial intelligence.

***As a fun fact, with the exception of the President’s Message, all Chapter News articles in this newsletter, as well as the article you are reading this very moment, were actually written by an AI system! AI writing tools are getting quite sophisticated these days.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Delta Sigma Sisters,

The last two months have flown by and we are fast approaching the holidays. At our meeting on November 6th, we enjoyed fellowship and an insightful program. The Education Law and Policy Committee did a great job planning and hosting the meeting. It is always great to see each of you and talk face-to-face. We missed our sisters who were not able to attend.

As the holiday season approaches, I encourage you to find ways to enjoy yourself in the busy season. It is easy to get caught up in the activities and events and forget to slow down and be present with family and friends in the special moments together. In retirement, I have realized that time together is a priceless gift we have been given. I wish the very best to you and your family.

Blessing to each of you,
Rhonda Keever Hager



Scholarship Committee Embraces the Digital Age

The Delta Sigma Scholarship Committee is diligently transitioning from traditional pen-and-paper applications to a convenient online format. This exciting change is set to enhance accessibility and streamline the application process, making it easier for students to apply and pursue their educational dreams.

Congratulations!

To membership co-chair Abbey Parker, now Abbey Bumgarner, on her November 3rd marriage to Mason Bumgarner!



Save the Dates!

- **Dec. 1** - DKG Ignite (LMS) applications due
- **Dec 7** - Senior Angel gift drop off
- **Dec. 15** - Chapter directory due to regional director
- **Dec. 15** - Bulletin: Collegial Exchange submissions due
- **Dec. 15** - Proposed amendments to NC DKG Standing Rules due
- **Jan. 15-Feb. 15** - Arts & Humanities Gallery submission window open
- **Jan 25**- Delta Sigma Executive Board Meeting
- **Jan 31** - NC DKG Education Foundation grant applications due
- **Feb 26** - Delta Sigma Meeting - 4:30
- **May 2** - Delta Sigma Meeting - 6:00



NC DKG NEWS

Announcing Second Vice President Dr. Michelle Tuck Thomas

Dr. Michelle Tuck Thomas has been named to serve as NC DKG second vice president as of September 26, 2023. The resignation of Carolyn J. Lane as first vice president was announced by President Hilda Parlér at the September 16 Fall Executive Board meeting in Greensboro. Janie Webb, NC DKG's former second vice president, moved up to serve as first vice president per our NC DKG Bylaws.

Dr. Thomas has been a member of NC DKG for nine years and is a member of Beta Kappa Chapter in Region V. She is chapter president and served as the regional director in Region V during the 2020-2022 biennium. She also served on the NC DKG Planning Committee. In her new role, Dr. Thomas will sit as a member on The NC DKG Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

Please welcome Dr. Michelle Tuck Thomas to the NC DKG Executive Committee as second vice president!

Only 7 Months Until Convention 2024!

Make sure the dates April 26-28, 2024 are on your calendar! Secure a roommate! Start planning your "After 5 Attire" for the Saturday night banquet! And don't forget your dancing shoes! It's not too early to start daydreaming about the fun you will have at the NC DKG State Convention!

Exciting changes and new activities were announced at the Fall Executive Board meeting. More details will

be forthcoming, so be on the lookout for those. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for those who want to enhance their Convention experience. [Dr. Carol Maidon](#), Volunteer Coordinator, would love to hear that you are interested!

Want to do something right now? Glad you asked! A fun Dance Party is planned for Friday night that is sure to get attendees on their feet and movin' to the beat! We need a playlist! What is your favorite song that gets you up and dancing? Send the title and artist to 2024 Convention Chair [Nikki Steckroth](#) who will track suggestions. Perhaps we'll have an NC DKG Official Dance Song! (Steckroth suggests "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge. You may recall that the second line is, "I've got all my sisters with me!")

Are you feeling the fun yet? Don't forget to clear your calendar for April 26-28, Convention 2024!



The following grants are due in the next cycle by Jan. 31, 2024

Continuing Education for Professional/ Personal Growth - up to \$500

Learning/Literacy Project Grant - up to \$500

Groves-Little Early Career Educator's Grant - Educators 4 years or less experience, employed in NC public schools - \$1,000 each

Apply at: <http://ncdkgef.org/grants.html>

DELTA SIGMA SERVES



Making Senior Spirits Bright

This holiday season, our chapter is coming together to spread cheer to isolated seniors through the Angel Tree program. Angel Tree provides gift donations to seniors who may not have family to celebrate with. We'll be adopting Angels and delivering holiday care packages to make their season bright.

If you'd like to adopt an angel, please contact [Jill Eaddy](#). Gifts can be dropped off unwrapped in large bags at Boger City United Methodist Church on **December 7th**.

Suggested gifts include:

- Little Debbie cakes, sugar free candy
- Small blankets, simple jewelry
- Large print word puzzle books, adult coloring books and colored pencils
- Sweat suits, shirts or pants (size M or L)
- Lotion, shampoo, body wash
- Devotional books



You can also just donate some of the items above like snacks, toiletries or puzzles. Any contribution makes a difference!

Our volunteer elves will deliver the packages along with warm holiday wishes. A simple act of kindness can truly lift seniors' spirits. With your support, we can bring comfort and connection to elderly neighbors who need it most this Christmas. Let's make this season special for them and help senior spirits stay bright.



Supporting Schools for Africa

At our previous meeting, **Delta Sigma proudly collected \$395 for Schools for Africa**, the DKG international project since 2010. Together, DKG International has donated over \$445,000 to UNICEF USA for children's education in 21 sub-Saharan African countries. This initiative provides access to quality basic education, focusing on girls, orphans, and vulnerable youth. UNICEF, alongside governments and communities, works to improve classrooms, ensure clean water and sanitation, and offer essential school materials. Your contributions are making a real difference!

Staying Safe Online

Key Takeaways for Educators

During our November 6th meeting, Steven Hoyle, the Chief Technology Officer for Lincoln County Schools gave a presentation on cybersecurity that contained valuable insights for educators. The core message was that we all need to be more vigilant about protecting ourselves and our students online.

The presentation focused on the prevalence of cyber threats today. For example, every 39 seconds a cyber attack targets a business. Ransomware attacks on schools worldwide grew over 800% last year. The average cost of a data breach now exceeds \$4 million.

To guard against these threats, Mr. Hoyle emphasized training and education around cybersecurity best practices. Simple mistakes like reusing passwords and clicking on suspicious links are behind most data breaches. Ongoing cybersecurity awareness campaigns are essential.

For educators specifically, be wary of social engineering tactics that try to manipulate you into sharing private information or clicking on malware links. Phishing emails impersonating parents or colleagues are a common example. Verify identities before sharing student or employee data.

When it comes to students' online safety, monitor their social media activity and educate them about predators disguising themselves online. One shocking stat: 500,000 predators target minors across platforms every day.

Other key cybersecurity tips for educators:

- Use secure payments and vet vendors carefully.
- Don't open attachments from unknown senders.
- Set social media privacy settings to high.
- Initiate contact yourself rather than trusting unsolicited messages.

By increasing our cybersecurity knowledge and vigilance, we can better protect our students and schools from the growing threat of cyber attacks. Small habit changes will go a long way.

Key Cybersecurity Terms

- **Phishing** - *Phony emails, texts or websites impersonating trusted sources to trick people into sharing login credentials, credit card info or other sensitive data.*
- **Malware** - *Malicious software installed on a device, often through phishing, that can damage systems, steal data, or allow hackers to access networks. Examples include viruses, worms, trojans, and spyware.*
- **Ransomware** - *A type of malware that encrypts important files on a system until the victim pays a ransom, usually in cryptocurrency.*



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Sunflowers and Sisterhood: Phoenix 2023

by Dr. Teresa H. Cowan

DKG found its way to the Sheraton Grand at the Wildhorse Pass in Phoenix for the 2023 International Conference where members found themselves surrounded by sunflowers. This iconic flower brought smiles to members' faces, joy to the event spaces, and inspiration to all involved.

From centerpieces to conference lapel pins to the Educators Book Award book cover to member paraphernalia, sunflowers were the unifying feature of the Phoenix conference.

Members celebrated the customs of the Gila River Indian Community and the diversity of DKG as they played bingo, watched dancers, ate native cuisine, participated in breakout sessions, listened to guest speakers, and enjoyed the fellowship of others.

After a year of planning with a fabulous steering committee and countless supportive volunteers, it was an incredibly fulfilling experience to see sisters genuinely embrace the "3 R's": rest, recuperation, and rejuvenation. May all DKG sisters take the lessons learned while attending the Phoenix event and weave them into their everyday lives in order to find a continued sense of balance as the new school year begins.

Mova Sa'pe (thank you) to all that attended and a special Mova Sa'pe to the NC DKG members who made the effort to attend the Phoenix event. What a blessing you are to me and to this state.

World Fellowship Recipient Gives Keynote Speech

Alona Kladieva addressed those attending the Phoenix Conference at the Friday morning session. Alona is a Ukrainian student studying at the University of Arizona, where she will begin her Ph.D. this fall. In May, she completed her MA in English as a Second Language. After moving to Tucson in August 2021, she started teaching English to immigrants in a nonprofit organization called Literacy Connects. Kladieva was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and is a World Fellowship recipient. She is also a new DKG member. Her heartfelt presentation took audience members on a moving journey of courage and perseverance. Alona's love of teaching and desire to be the best teacher she can be was evident from an early age. She plans to connect research in second-language writing to education and bring innovative teaching methods back to Ukraine.



President
Hilda Parlér
congratulates
Alona

ED LAW & POLICY

2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

from Committee Chair Heather Myers



HS GRADUATION & CREDIT

- All MS/HS students must have a career development plan & career portfolio (2024-2025)
- Computer Science added as a graduation requirement (art added a couple years ago)
- Three year graduation plan requirement (effective for current 10th graders to graduate 24-25)
 - Must declare and cannot participate in ANY school services
 - Means potential 16 year olds graduating
 - Unknown impact on college acceptance

LEGAL BITS

- Unpaid meal debts cannot be used to withhold any student records or graduation
- Three-cuing system or visual memory for literacy in K-3 is prohibited by law
- Criminal penalties for not reporting major school employee misconduct
- Requires conflict of interest training for contract approving personnel

PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

Updates:

- Parent Bill of Rights -- not in force until 1st day of school AFTER January 1st.
- State Board narrowly defines its areas for review (pronoun/name changes & health services not book challenges) & schools pay \$200 per hr. legal fee regardless of outcome
- Parent consent not needed for emergencies

Major Components:

- Communication & Parent Involvement Requirements (ex. pronouns, surveys, medical)
- Instructional materials challenge procedures for school then BOE then State
- No gender identity or sexuality instruction K-3

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

- Raises 3% - 10% w/ focus on beginning teacher salary (\$36,000 to \$41,000) - new master's pay not reinstated
- Raises average 7% for principals & non-certified personally + 2% more for bus drivers
- APs - Teacher step + 19%
- \$ Allocated to TA Tuition Reimbursement Grant Program (\$4600 per year per TA)
- \$ Allocated to Teacher Apprentice Grant Program for tuition & salary supplements for "eligible teacher apprentices" employed in an elementary school in same LEA they graduated from
- More \$ for NCCAT & NC Teaching Fellows Program (STEM, SPED, & K-6 Teachers)
- \$ Allocated for Salary Supplements for Advanced Teaching Roles (\$10,000 or \$3,000)
- \$ Allocated to signing bonuses for small county & low-wealth counties
- More \$ Allocated to Opportunity Scholarship Program
- \$ Allocated for local monument for Benjamin Lincoln because of PBL Lesson @ ELHS

CALENDARS & RESOURCES

Delta Sigma

Event	Date/Time	Location
Senior Angels Drive-thru Drop Off	Thursday, 12/7/23	Boger City UMC
Executive Board Meeting	Thursday, 1/25/24 - 5:00	Boger City UMC
Third Meeting (Finance)	Thursday, 2/26/24 - 5:00 Refreshments 4:30	Boger City UMC
Fourth Meeting (Scholarship & World Fellowship)	Thursday, 5/2/24 - 6:00 dinner meeting	Boger City UMC
Executive Board Meeting	TBD	Boger City UMC

NC DKG

Convention - 4/26/24-4/28/24
Durham, NC

International

Convention - 7/9/24-7/13/24
National Harbor, Maryland

Delta Sigma Executive Board

Rhonda Hager - President, [contact](#)
Kelton Boorman - Vice President
Lori Haight - Treasurer
Shelia Wright - Secretary
Kennan Eaddy - Editor, [contact](#)
Jenny Dellinger - Website

Heather Myers - Ed Law & Policy
Kelton Boorman - Programs & Fine Arts
Libby Fletcher - Finance
Jill Eaddy - Communications
Darla Stines - Beginning Teachers
Gayle Reid - Scholarships & World Fellowship
Elaine Boysworth & Abbey Parker - Membership

Important Links for Chapter Members

International Website: <https://www.dkg.org>

NC DKG Website: <https://www.ncdkg.org>

Delta Sigma Website: <http://deltasigmanc.weebly.com>

Delta Sigma Chapter Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/DeltaSigmaChapterDKG/>

FOLLOW!!!