**Minutes of Delta Sigma Meeting – November 4, 2021**

The members of the Delta Sigma Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at Boger City United Methodist Church. The meeting was hosted by the Education Law and Policy Committee. Committee chair, Heather Myers, welcomed the group with words of praise for her school community and the “village” of Delta Sigma.

Dr. Cale Sain, Director of Career and Technical Education for Lincoln County Schools, was the guest speaker and shared information regarding myFutureNC and the district’s Project 414 initiative.

Project 414 is aligned with the mission of myFutureNC, a statewide nonprofit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of collaboration between NC leaders in education, business, and government. The mission of myFutureNC is to prepare North Carolina for the future by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and ensuring economic viability in a global economy. The goal of myFutureNC is to ensure that by 2030, two million 25- to 44- year-olds in NC will have a high quality post-secondary credential or degree.

As the NC economy grows, the vast majority of new jobs require education beyond a high school diploma—but fewer than half of North Carolinians ages 25-44 have a high quality credential or post-secondary degree. It is the contention of myFutureNC that the education system and NC economy are out of sync. Job seekers struggle to find jobs, and employers struggle to find the talent they need to fill openings. By 2030, myFutureNC predicts North Carolina will still fall short by at least 400,000 individuals with the skills needed to fill North Carolina’s projected jobs' needs and it is critical that the educational attainment gap be closed.

Specifically in Lincoln County Schools, Project 414 focuses on enhancing career information, options, and planning for students in grades 4 -12. Gaston College is partnering with the district to develop productive, trained individuals who will contribute to the local community and economy in the 13th and 14th years. Project 414 is a long-term plan that will grow and evolve based on community needs in Lincoln County. Several community partners have contributed to the development of this plan, including Gaston College, Lincoln Economic Development (LEDA), Lincolnton City and Lincoln County Governments, Atrium Health Lincoln, and others. Dr. Sain emphasized the project was designed to prepare students for the workforce, college, or military, but ultimately prepare students for the future with the “end” in mind (retirement…not just graduation).

Project 414 has four broad areas of focus – Educational and Workforce Alignment; Access to Lifelong Educational Opportunities; Preparation for Education, Career, and Life; and Comprehensive Support Systems. To address the four broad areas, the school district is currently focused on the following strategies.

* Developing a 4-12 Support & Career Services continuum to eliminated opportunity gaps and ensure all students have access to consistent activities/opportunities
* Developing more pathways in Career and Technical Education and CCP
* Expanding opportunities for articulated credit with Gaston College
* Strengthening post-secondary readiness
* Expanding work-based learning opportunities
* Implementing the MajorClarity Career Interest and Career Exploration program in all middle and high schools.

Project 414 is a work in progress and will expand and adapt to meet the emerging needs of the county and state while assisting students prepare for the post-secondary plan of their choice.

Following the program, Heather Myers led the group in a fun Thanksgiving paper plate drawing activity. Wendy Mosteller was declared the “winner” of the activity and was given a gift card. Dr. Elaine Jenkins was also presented a gift card for identifying the most members in the latest “Who Am I?” activity in the September newsletter.

President Kennan Eaddy called the business meeting to order. She shared member news and recognitions. Kelly Withrow was named Principal of the Year for Lincoln County Schools. Jenny Dellinger recently attended the AASL (American Association of School Libraries) national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. The grant Jenny received from Delta Sigma last spring helped to support her participation in this conference.

The minutes were presented for approval. Jill Eaddy made a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting. The motion was seconded by Rhonda Hager. The minutes were approved by member vote.

The following committee reports were presented:

Beginning Teacher Support Committee – Kennan reported for chair Katie Crocker. The committee provided a gift bag to beginning teachers (BT 1’s, 2’s, and 3’s) containing an apple and caramel dip with a note attached reading “Teachers are the “Core” of our schools. Thank you for choosing LCS. From Delta Kappa Gamma.” A huge thank you goes to Jennifer Carroll, Melanie Huss, and Casey Bridges for making this gift possible.

Communications and Marketing Committee – Elaine Boysworth reminded members to send updated directory information to her as soon as possible. Members were asked to sign an internet permission form to be kept on file by the committee, if they had not already done so. This form was designed to comply with DKG’s Internet Policy for Digital Communications. The next deadline for submitting committee reports and member news for the newsletter is December 30, 2021. Elaine also reminded members of the Honoring Heroes Project sponsored by the NC DKG Educational Foundation. Donations may be made to honor any teacher. Contact Elaine if you need the form for donation or certificate to present to the teacher. It was announced that Elaine Jenkins was the winner of the $15.00 Amazon gift card to identify the most members in the “Who Am I?” column in the previous newsletter. Answers were shared will all members present.

Finance Committee – Libby Fletcher reminded members to send their contribution (in lieu of last year’s cancelled Fashion Show) to Lori Haight at NLHS by courier or 1629 Bishop Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092 by mail. Membership voted in the spring to ask each member for a contribution of at least $25.00.

Membership Committee – Rhonda Hager distributed prospect cards and reminded members of the qualities of a good member. Nominations for membership in Delta Sigma will be taken through the end of December. The membership will vote on these nominations at the February meeting. Induction will take place at the end of April.

Scholarship Committee – Kennan Eaddy reminded everyone of the scholarship opportunities available from DKG, NC DKG, and Delta Sigma. For Delta Sigma professional development scholarships, contact Judy Shuford for more information.

Kennan Eaddy shared a note from Rondell Burke regarding the Ceremony of Remembrance held in September.

Kennan asked members to think about the upcoming Fashion Show in April and to consider alternative ways to continue this fundraiser in a safe manner. The fundraiser will be discussed in more detail at a later date.

Members were reminded of the NC DKG Educational Foundation Day of Giving on November 20, 2021 and NC DKG Conference dates – April 29 – May 1, 2022. The conference will be held in Asheville, NC.

Jill Eaddy reported that the Holiday Tour of Homes would not be held again this year. Delta Sigma has traditionally supported this event as a service project. Jill shared two requests to assist with Christmas “angels” from the Headstart program and DSS Adult Services. The members agreed to support “angels” for elderly individuals served by DSS Adult Services. Kennan and Jill will send out more information about adopting an “angel” and plans for gift collection.

With no further announcements or discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Members present included: Edwina Beam, Elaine Boysworth, Jennifer Dellinger, Jill Eaddy, Kennan Eaddy, Libby Fletcher, Rhonda Hager, Millicent Heavner, Elaine Jenkins, Wanda Lutz, Judy Jones, Wendy Mosteller, Heather Myers, Abbey Parker, Gayle Reid, and Renee Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Boysworth (on behalf of Sheila Wright, who was unable to attend)