



*Greetings to the College of the Siskiyous' Foundation  
from College of the Siskiyous' chapter of  
PHI THETA KAPPA, ALPHA PI MU*

We, Jayne Turk and Patrice Thatcher-Stephens, senior faculty at College of the Siskiyous, come to you to ask for financial assistance for our students. We are the current advisors for our local PTK Chapter. We are committed to supporting all COS students and especially proud to work with these students who, while sharing many of the challenges of California Community College students, have the resilience and skills to excel in their academic work. Our historic average membership is about 15 new students per year, although we have greatly exceeded that in the past two years. Students qualify based on a 3.5 GPA after earning 12 units, with a new cohort identified and inducted each year.

COS Foundation is likewise dedicated to student success and pursuit of excellence. Many ALPHA PI MU students have benefitted from your generous scholarship support and student recognition over the years. PTK shares this vision and would like to multiply the impact of foundation scholarships.

National PTK offers \$90 million in scholarships to help PTK members to complete associate, bachelor's, and even master's degrees. They support students in developing the professional skills employers seek through the online Competitive Edge program. PTK supports transfer success as they search for four-year colleges and universities that are transfer-friendly and explore the scholarships they offer community college students — including those exclusively for PTK members. And, of course, our PTK members are prepared for leadership through access to custom, nationally recognized, Leadership Development Studies curriculum. Students must be members to qualify.

In order to benefit from PTK membership, students must first become members. For some of the most at-risk students, this fee is paid by college organizations and state agencies. The reality is, that most students at COS cannot afford the membership fees. The \$90.00 fee may, in the short term, seem to be better spent on rent or food or gas.

PTK membership has grown 100% over the past two years, since we became advisors. Of course, that is wonderful, *and* more members means more food for events, more sashes for graduation, more hats to decorate, and more events to attract and support more students. While we have discussed fundraisers, the reality is that the high-achieving students spend their free time doing schoolwork and often holding down jobs. These students simply don't have the time to organize, plan, and/or participate in fund raisers. In the past, college organizations and the Faculty Association and the COS Board, through the generosity of individual members, have given financial assistance to sponsor memberships. As advisors, we personally spend \$500/year, and that's not sustainable. While faculty have expressed interest in pre-tax donations, since we don't yet have that mechanism, we can't gauge the money that will raise.

We come to you this year because our goals seem to align. Support for high achieving students literally supports the COS Foundation's goal of holding up education as a community value. We request a substantial

donation from the Foundation, primarily to make membership available for all qualifying students. This donation would have a multiplier effect, as our students would have access to an additional 90 million in scholarships.

We will both continue to support Alpha Pi Mu both financially and through our donated time. We need strong partners with a shared vision. Please help.

**From:** Turk, Jayne <[turk@siskiyous.edu](mailto:turk@siskiyous.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 07, 2023 9:47 AM  
**To:** Slabaugh, Dawn <[Slabaugh@siskiyous.edu](mailto:Slabaugh@siskiyous.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Phi Theta Kappa

There are not previous records of active members that I can find...but my best guess is 10-15. Last year (2023), we inducted 34 new members-significantly more than average because we raised money to pay fees.

And by we, I meant the advisors—we are asking for money at every opportunity. This year, we are joined by students who are making the asks. We have not held fundraising events. In addition to our induction ceremonies and graduation celebrations, last year (2023) we held our first annual cap decorating session. This semester, we are adding a movie to our fun activities.

Recruitment timeline has been tough because it often takes us months to get the list of eligible students. Typically, we have less than a month to recruit students at the beginning (fall) of each term.

We would be appreciative of any support and we honor the requests.

We do have expenses in addition to membership (and honestly, these are mostly paid by Patrice and I, but we have to stop doing that). In addition to the 4-5 activities, we do each year, where we typically serve snacks or continental breakfast, we also loan students honor sashes to wear at graduation and buy officers pins. More members means that we have purchased a lot of sashes. Each of our event's costs around \$300. The Faculty Association has sponsored 10 student memberships "and activities" with the donation of \$1000 (or more) each term. Individuals have either donated \$90 or \$100 for the same reason.

More to come!  
~Jayne

**Sponsorship Request – \$90/fee – per member**

15 – average new members per year

= \$1,350

34 – members inducted 2023

= \$3,060