

Phi Theta Kappa

Issue No. 1 | Spring 2022



Palomar College chapter at Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst Convention April 2019

What is Phi Theta Kappa?

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest official honor society for 2-year institutions in the U.S. With 3.5+ million inducted members, Phi Theta Kappa is a catalyst for the growth and development of students with interests ranging from transferring to a 4-year institution to entering the workforce. Phi Theta Kappa gives students the opportunity to advance as leaders and scholars through academic and community achievement.

About the Palomar Chapter

Alpha Omega Rho is Palomar's own Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Initiated in 1994, the chapter has earned various accolades including the Five Star Chapter award and the Outstanding Chapter award. Our chapter focuses on research, campus, and community projects tailored to developing skills as students; and community initiatives directed towards topics that impact our college's culture.

Scholarship Benefits & More

Scholarships are one of the primary reasons students join PTK. Scholarships come in two types: (1) to help students achieve an Associate's Degree or (2) to transfer to a four year University. Whether it be a PTK scholarship or other scholarship opportunities, PTK also offers resources and support for students in applying to scholarships, creating an outstanding application, and highlighting your strengths and achievements.

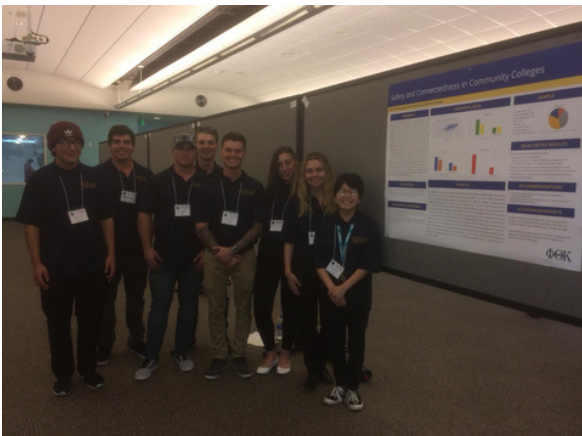
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Honors In Action

The Honors in Action project is a program designed by Phi Theta Kappa to engage students in research and action meant to foster students' success and help them grow as scholars and leaders. The project itself is divided into three individual sections: research, action, and reflection.

For the research section, we are provided a program guide meant to guide us through this project and from it, we can choose an available theme. After choosing the theme, we can start creating the research question, then, conduct the research, and later, create its conclusion.

After the research is done, we can now focus on the action portion of this project, which involves us doing some collaborative work, like presenting our findings to a research convention or collaborating with different organizations to solve an ongoing issue that is found within our research. The last part of this project is the reflection part, where we get to reflect what we have done for this project and answer provided questions from Phi Theta Kappa.



College Project

The College Project is a project in which we are able to work within our community on campus. The project encourages chapters to take a closer look at their own college campus and the needs within the system, along with engaging in opportunities to give back to their surrounding community.

It is also utilized to strengthen our relationship with our college's administration. Our involvement and perspective as honors students on campus is used as a resource by administrators, and our project is typically selected by an administrator such as the college president.

Typically we start off our process by meeting with certain administrators and figuring out what they might need and/or feel the campus community could use as a whole. After discussing multiple ideas and brainstorming together, we then get to work and start setting our plans into motion. After completing our task, we then move onto reflecting on the outcome of the project and also its significance and purpose.



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2021-2022 Honors in Action: Exploring the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Culture and Society

Our Honors in Action Project was one of our group's most monumental achievements as of this current year. Essentially, it's an incredibly detailed and articulate google website that presents its audience with resources regarding how to mourn while being in a pandemic clearly and concisely. The [website](#) is formatted in the form a directory with subcategories such as how to set up and stream a memorial service, financial assistance, and resource groups.

Additionally, the inspirations for these categories came from our chapter's research project that was themed around life and death. When we examined the impacts pandemics had on various cultures, one of our most crucial discoveries were that many groups of people found ways ways to preserve the legacy of their loved ones even if meant sacrificing certain customs. This finding ultimately parallels our project when we discuss ways people can mourn during a pandemic.

Together, we were able to give our website an aura of professionalism by giving each of our pages suitable visual aids and accurate, concrete information. By giving each subcategory their own page that directs its audience to various links to helpful resources with the assistance of the clear summary topics, our project was more than suitable enough to share with actual organizations in our community.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Palomar PTK COVID-19 Memorial Resource List website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: sites.google.com/view/ptkmemorialresource/home. The website features a dark header with the text "PHI THETA KAPPA'S COVID-19 MEMORIAL RESOURCE LIST" overlaid on a background image of hands clasped together. Below the header, there is a section titled "Who we are and what we strive for?" with a paragraph of text: "Palomar's Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society chapter composed of students who want to make a difference in their community. We hope that by illustrating to others the efficient resources presented by our local community, we can be there for each other during the distressful stages that come from mourning others whilst being in a pandemic." Below this, there is a section titled "Type of Resources" and a navigation menu on the left side with the following items: "Home", "How to set up a Memorial Service", "How to livestream a Memorial Service", "Financial Assistance", and "Support Groups". At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "HOW TO SET UP A MEMORIAL SERVICE" with a small image of a pen and paper.

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2021-2022 Local Chapter

President
Rachel Alazar
Pre-Nursing



In her time at Palomar, Rachel has been engaged in an array of the college's culture. Since 2018 Rachel has sat as the college's Chapter President and, since June 2020, served as the Student Trustee on the district's Governing Board. Aside from her academics, she enjoys writing fiction on Wattpad and performing as a musician in a community concert band.



VP of Scholarship
Brian Gomez
Computer Science

Brian is a student who displayed excellent skills in communication and leading; and worked diligently as the Vice-President Scholarships since 2018 to lead our chapter's Honors in Action projects through the years. In doing so, he has acquired a better understanding of developing research at the undergraduate level. Away from PTK, Brian enjoys programming and gaming.

PTK Alumni - UCSD
Parsa Seyedi
Biology



In his time at Palomar College, Parsa has continued to support the causes, needs, and initiatives our campus community. Since 2021, Parsa has flourished from our group's research projects with his excellent writing and leadership skills. Outside of PTK, Parsa enjoys listening to music and advocating for environmentalism at his transfer university, UCSD.



PTK Member
Nathan Gomez
Animation

Nathan is a student who has been an active member of our chapter since his start in June of 2020. As a local member, he has used his creative skills to aid in the writing, establishment, and promotion of ideas for our projects. Outside of Palomar, Nathan enjoys creating art both traditionally and digitally and he is looking forward to pursuing animation soon.



Advisor
Dana O'Callaghan

Dana has served as a PTK Co-Advisor for the last 7 years. Her primary role at Palomar College is as a Counseling Faculty member. Her favorite part of serving as a co-advisor is seeing the students grow in their leadership skills

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Advisor
Jennifer Backman

Jennifer is a professor in Palomar's English department and began serving as PTK's new Co-Advisor in Spring 2022. She is excited to support our inspiring community of students and looks forward to their upcoming projects.