

The Eta State Beginning Teacher Support Committee wishes to thank all the chapters who generously contributed to this resource during the 2016 Eta State Convention.

We hope you will find helpful ideas /tips/ suggestions for supporting Beginning Teachers in your area!

If you would like to add more ideas to this collection please send them to Dr. Sherry Willis at sherrywillis@gmail.com.

The Fairy Godmother Project Xi Chapter



Chapter members are encouraged to adopt a new teacher, and engage in any number of teacher support strategies. Active teachers do so in their buildings, retired teachers volunteer in the school of their choice by contacting the principal.

Some of the things that our Fairy Godmothers do are:

- Share tips acquired over the years
- Donate school supplies
- Volunteer in classrooms
- Write notes to teachers
- Provide small gifts to lift morale

It is our hope that more and more of our members will participate and that it will affect our high turn-over rate in a positive way.



**Luncheon, Gift Bags, Adoption of a Beginning Teacher, “Most Promising Young Woman Educator” Award (\$250)
Delta Sigma Chapter**



1. On “Orientation Workdays” for all beginning teachers, we have either a brunch or luncheon for them, giving each a gift bag containing very nice and useful donations from local businesses. Afterwards, we have a panel made up of our members to answer any questions these beginning teachers may have. Each beginning teacher fills out a form indicating their likes in various categories and also any “school” needs.
2. Each is adopted by one of members and remembered each month according to their “wish list.”
3. Two more gift bags are prepared—one in January and one at the end of the school year.
4. We give a \$250 Grant-in Aid to the “Most Promising Young Woman Educator” (a first year teacher), based on the recommendations of her principal with no stipulation as to how the money is spent.

**Refreshments Provided at New Teacher Institute
Nu Chapter**

Our Chapter served refreshments to new teachers attending the Beginning Teacher Institute for Catawba County.



**“A Cut Above the Rest”
Nu Chapter**



Presented Catawba County 1st year teachers with a pair of scissors with label: “You are a Cut Above the Rest!”

**“You’ve Got the Write Stuff”
Nu Chapter**



Presented Catawba County 1st year teachers with wipe-off markers, sharpies, and erasers with label: “You’ve Got the Write Stuff! Keep up the Good Work!”

**“You were ‘Mint’ To Teach”
Nu Chapter**



Presented Catawba County 1st year teachers with mints and a snowflake ornament with label: “You were ‘mint’ to teach.”

**School Partnership Leads to Mentoring
Mu Chapter**

Mu Chapter adopted a local high school which had 15 Beginning Teachers in August. A few of us met with administration and planned a partnership of assistance aimed at helping the Beginning Teachers.

By December the number of Beginning Teachers had risen to 24. We attended several meetings with the teachers at which we provided refreshments, strategies, and other mentoring advice.



New Teachers' Wish Lists Fulfilled Mu Chapter



Twenty-four Beginning High School Teachers were adopted by the chapter. The chapter asked the teachers to list the supplies needed for their classrooms.

At Christmas time Mu Chapter members delivered bags to the Beginning Teachers filled with all they had requested.

Monthly "Goodie Bags" & Mentoring Mu Chapter



Goodie Bags are given to 24 Beginning Teachers at least once a month to let them know they are in chapter members' thoughts.

Members have also extended their hands to be available to them for mentoring.

Partnership with Businesses Leads to Donations of Supplies and Gift Cards for Beginning Teachers Alpha Gamma Chapter

In the fall we brainstormed local businesses that might donate gift cards for new teachers. Then each member volunteered to contact a business. An official letter on letterhead explained the project to business owners.

Gift cards and donated supplies were turned in at the November meeting. In January a committee packed goodie bags with supplies and gift cards worth a total of \$140 each.

Bags were delivered through the school courier service. A special "Welcome to the Profession" note went in each bag along with a DKG brochure.

Thank you notes came pouring in.



Goodie Bags for Teachers Alpha Phi Chapter



A Goodie Bag is prepared for all Beginning Teachers in Asheville City, Buncombe and Madison Counties. The bag includes pens, paper clips, candy bars, and info about our chapter.

Collection of Critical and Creative Thinking Task for Beginning Teachers Kappa Chapter



Kappa Chapter compiled a notebook of 50 short activities to be used by Beginning Teachers as "on-the-spot" critical and creative thinking tasks for students.

These lessons were cross-curriculum and adaptable for various K-5 grade levels. These could be used when time spots open unexpectedly, when a specialist cancels class or even for a substitute.

Beginning Teachers Attend Chapter Meeting Beta Gamma Chapter



We invited new teachers (first and second year) to our November meeting. Prior to the meeting, we asked every chapter member to list "Five Things I Wish I Had Known As A New Teacher." Our Educational Excellence Committee Chairman compiled the lists, copied them and presented them to the new teachers along with a substantial gift bag of goodies donated by chapter members (sticky notes, pencils, markers, paper, chocolate, etc.).

At the meeting we had a delightful discussion beginning with Beta Gamma members each sharing one piece of advice. Then the new teachers asked questions to pick the brains of our more experienced teachers. We had three teachers to attend in 2014 and four teachers in 2015. We found that we got better participation when the new teachers were personally invited by a member known to them versus issuing a generic invitation.

We also raffled off a \$25 gift card to an educational supply store. From the 2015 group, we just initiated two of them into our chapter.

**Mentor Support
Delta Iota Chapter**



We offer mentor support to Beginning Teachers and identify chapter members within their schools who are available for support.

**Themed Treat Bags
Delta Iota Chapter**



We send Beginning Teachers theme-based treats that match the month/date to be received.

Example: In March we sent bags of “gold” to the Beginning Teachers. The bags had all yellow/gold items in them—gold wrapped candy, smile stickers, lemonade mix, marigold seeds, etc.

**Stuff-the Tote
Beta Chapter**



At our first meeting in August, members brought items to “Stuff the Tote” for new teachers. We collected so many items (markers, post-it notes, pencils, paper, folders, etc.) we were able to fill six 2x2 crates.

We donated these crates to six schools where one of our members teaches. Our six “Beginning Teacher Support” contacts presented the crates to be awarded as a door prize to one of the beginning teachers. The winner also received information about Delta Kappa Gamma and Beta Chapter.

It was a great way for the new teacher to “put a face” with Beta Chapter in a very positive way.

**Reusable Bags of Treats
Gamma Chapter**



Our chapter, along with two other chapters in our county (Alpha Chi and Alpha Phi) prepare “goodie bags” for the Beginning Teachers in Buncombe County, Madison County and Asheville City Schools.

We fill reusable bags with notebook paper, pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, tissues, hand sanitizer and candy.

Included is a bookmark telling about DKG, the contact info for the three chapters, and an invitation to come to a meeting.

**New Teacher Bags, Seasonal Treats, Notes of Encouragement
Gamma Chi Chapter**



Our chapter has hand-delivered New Teacher Bags during American Education Week each November since 2010 to all new teachers in Warren County Schools. Prior to 2010, delivering goodie bags was taken on as a project at various times. Last year the bags contained Expo Dry Erase Sets, pocket Kleenex, sanitizers, 3x3 sticky note pads, glue sticks, Lance crackers, popcorn, scotch tape, highlighters, colored ink pens, Hershey Miniatures, peppermints, a Gamma Chi brochure, and a Gamma Chi bookmark.

We use Sign-up Genius to make sure that our members purchase exactly enough of the different items that are needed for the bags. Twenty-nine new teachers in Warren County received these bags.

At Christmas a Christmas card and piece of candy is given to each new teacher in Warren County.

For Valentine’s Day this year, new teachers were given a first aid kit and a card.

In the spring, notes of encouragement are sent to the new teachers in Warren County.

**Fan the Flames of
Enthusiasm, Care
and The Love of
Teaching**



**Burning In The
Hearts of Beginning
Teachers**

Goody Bags, Adopt-a-Teacher, Food, Door Prizes

Alpha Psi Chapter



The Alpha Psi Early Career Education Support Committee is actively involved in supporting and nurturing the teachers in Craven County. The Committee began the biennium by delivering Goody Bags to each of the first year teachers in the district.

At its first chapter meeting members were encouraged to adopt a teacher to support and nurture. Names, grade levels/subject areas and which schools the Beginning Teachers taught in were sent to members. In turn, members periodically sent notes, read to classes, helped with bulletin boards or offered any other needed assistance. The Committee and other Society members provided refreshments and door prizes at various trainings during the year.

Alpha Psi began the second year by providing breakfast at the Craven County Beginning Teachers Orientation meeting. At the breakfast, Alpha Psi members were introduced and were given the opportunity to explain the purposes of the Society. Each Beginning Teacher was presented with a booklet of techniques and helpful suggestions written by members of Alpha Psi Chapter.

All of the Beginning Teachers who signed the contact sheet are receiving help in their classrooms. On April 21, 2016, the Craven County School System opened its Teacher Supply Store for Beginning Teachers to purchase classroom supplies with coupons they accumulated during the year for positive things they had accomplished at their school sites. Alpha Psi provided refreshments for the occasion, talked to the them about DKG/Alpha Psi and gave the teachers door prizes.

Meeting with Beginning Teachers/Goodie Bags Alpha Pi Chapter



1. Met with Beginning Teachers at beginning of the year. Played games to win door prizes. Distributed goodie bags with DKG and Alpha Pi information.
2. Met with Beginning Teachers at Mid-Year County Beginning Teacher/Lateral Entry meeting and gave out "mid-year survival bags" at the end of the meeting.

Gift Bags for Beginning Teachers Alpha Phi Chapter

Gift bags at Regional Conference



Seasonal Treats and Snacks Beta Theta Chapter



- Christmas Cards/notes of encouragement
- Valentine Goodies (candy, supplies, cards of encouragement)
- Serve snacks at End of Year meeting

Seasonal Gifts for Beginning Teachers Gamma Omega Chapter



Small thoughtful gifts are given to Beginning Teachers throughout the year:

Fall: Send Beginning Teachers apples or baked pumpkin bread with encouraging words

Winter: Send mug with hot chocolate packets and candy canes for the class with warm Christmas wishes

Spring: Send seed packets (flower and/or vegetable) with a small book of inspirational thoughts

Summer: During last week of school, send beach towel, a rose and tell them to RELAX!

The Marigold Project Alpha Nu Chapter



Many experienced gardeners follow a concept called companion planting—placing certain vegetables and plants near each other to improve growth for one or both plants. Among companion plants, the marigold is one of the best: It protects a wide variety of plants from pests and harmful weeds. If you plant a marigold beside most any garden vegetable, the vegetable will grow big and healthy and strong, protected and encouraged by its marigold.

Marigolds are in our schools as well—encouraging, supporting and nurturing growing teachers on their way to maturity. If you can find at least one marigold in your school and stay close to them, you will grow. Find more than one and will positively thrive.

This was our chapter's introduction to the Marigold Project. Chapter members volunteered to serve as "Marigolds" for young teachers providing encouragement, classroom assistance, supplies and other resources. Feedback was very positive. Retired members also served as "marigolds" for veteran chapter members still in the classroom.

S'Mores & Gift Certificates Iota Chapter



Our membership chair created S'Mores Packets with S'mores Trail Mix, Valentine candy, and pencils.

Our vice-president obtained a \$5 gift certificate for a Sweet Frog frozen yogurt. These were bundled up together with an inspirational saying and information about our chapter and DKG.

They were sent to 80 new teachers in Wayne County Public Schools.

Gift Cards Omicron Chapter



Our county system has approximately 140 early career teachers (1—3 years experience). In February, our chapter collected and distributed gift card to the 40 third grade teachers.

Our rationale was:

- (1) This was the time the educators would decide whether or not to continue in teaching; and
- (2) This was when the money and supplies truly begins to run out.

Suggestions/Tips for Volunteering/Support Kappa Chapter

- Photocopy
- Laminate
- Cut/organize
- Set up materials for centers/stations
- Read one-to-one
- Tutor—ESL, math, reading
- Advocate for/seek donations to enhance lessons and add to supplies for students
- Update website w/weekly links, homework
- Label levels of class library books
- Monitor lunch
- Research/compile links to match upcoming lesson objectives
- Routinely give at least one hour a week
- Meals—breakfast/lunch during the year
- Gift cards—any amount, for anywhere
- Personal pampering gifts bags
- School supplies: cardstock, colored paper, labels, post-its
- Hold paper drive
- Collect books, school supplies



Google Drive Rho Chapter

Use Google Drive and Share! Share! Share!

...no use to reinvent the wheel!

