

Alpha Beta Chapter Learns About Current Evaluation of Teachers by Carol Hughes, Roanoke

On March 19 the Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at the Pontiac Family Kitchen and learned about the positive and negative features of the new system of teacher evaluation and the impact it is having.

Pamela Rightsel, ISU Student Teacher Supervisor, explained that the Charlotte Danielson method of evaluating teachers, which Illinois and many other states require, involves four domains to judge a teacher. These are Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction, and Professional Responsibilities. Each domain is broken down into 5 or 6 parts. A teacher also keeps a large file of evidence documenting what he or she is doing related to teaching. A large focus is keeping the class student centered with students arranged in purposeful groups who discover the evidence needed to solve problems while the teacher monitors their learning.

Student teachers are to take the edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessment) which involves their teaching a lesson, writing a document explaining what they are accomplishing, and then analyzing if they achieved their goals. A 20-minute video of the lesson is sent to Pearson Education, Inc. and evaluated by a consultant who ranks the presentation. To be certified as a teacher, the student must receive a certain rank. Currently state universities will not allow students majoring in education to receive degrees if they do not “pass” the edTPA.

Ms. Rightsel personally feels that these two evaluation systems will eventually end as they allow little room for creativity in teaching, take considerable time in collecting evidence, and create unnecessary anxiety for the teacher. Consequently, fewer men and women will enter teaching resulting in a teacher shortage.

President Carol Hoffman (Fairbury) announced that 13 members will attend the Lambda State Convention on April 15-17 at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel. Attendees should bring Box Tops for Education which will make the chapter eligible to take part in a drawing.

Professional Affairs Co-Chair Karen Harms (Fairbury) announced that Rachel Watson, Pontiac, has been selected to receive the Alpha Beta Grant of \$200 at the May meeting. Early Educator Grants of \$100 will also be awarded. Debra Johnson of Pontiac attends McKendree University and will receive one of the Lambda State Florence A. Cook Recruitment Grants in the amount of \$1,000 at the state convention.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 9, at the Gathering Place in Eureka at 5:30 pm. For the program Kate Walter (Cullom) and Michelle Harms (Pontiac) will discuss “Using Chrome Books in the Classroom.”

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an honor society that promotes the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. The Society has chapters in 17 countries and serves over 77,000 members by providing scholarships, leadership training, mentoring, and global networking opportunities for women. For more information, visit the website at www.dkg.org or call Carol Hughes at 309-923-7370.

Pictured in photo:

Michelle Harms and Kate Walter discuss with Pamela Rightsel (center) how they cope with the Charlotte Danielson method of evaluation in their teaching.

