

## Early Career Educators and Future Teachers Receive Grants from Alpha Beta Chapter by Carol Hughes

At the Gathering Place in Eureka, Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International awarded three \$100 grants to early career educators for purchasing curriculum materials, classroom supplies, or behavior incentives and two \$200 grants to students who plan to become teachers.

Membership Chair Louann Harms (Fairbury) introduced the grant recipients: Carlie Canfield, who teaches art at Eureka Middle School; Amy Whisker, family and consumer science, Eureka High School; and Carissa Yeager, counselor, Eureka High School. Collections of student supplies were also presented to Alyssa Thompson, who teaches science, and Courtney Lowe, who teaches English, at Eureka High School.

Two \$200 grants were awarded to high school senior Rachel Watson, Pontiac, who plans to major in early childhood education and business at Olivet Nazarene University and Debi Johnson, Pontiac, who is majoring in elementary education, at McKendree University. At the state convention in April Debi was awarded one of the Florence A. Cook Recruitment grants in the amount of \$2,000.

Presenting the program "Using Chrome Books in the Classroom" were Kate Walter (Cullom) and Michelle Harms (Pontiac). Schools are finding that Chrome Books work faster and cost less than laptops and can be used for many of the same applications as laptops. Google Docs, used for written projects, gives a teacher easy access to student work to make comments. Google Docs provides other advantages such as automatically saving files, providing its version of power point (Google Slides) and providing an online library.

Alpha Beta President Carol Hoffman (Fairbury) congratulated Jessica Lawson (East Peoria) for being awarded a stipend of \$1,000 that aided her in completing her master's degree, Kate Walter for receiving a state Foundation grant for her Iditarod classroom project, Marianne Davis (Dwight) on being recognized as a 50-year member, and Marcia Wahls (Lexington) as a first time convention attendee. Other awards included funding literacy projects, supporting Schools for Africa, and submitting news for 4 issues of Newscaster. Thirteen members attended the state Convention at the Decatur Convention Center and Hotel in April. Carol Hughes (Roanoke) recognized Alpha Beta by establishing an award to be given to the "Chapter with Largest Number of Attendees at the Convention". (In 2002 as state president, Carol established an award for the chapter with the highest percentage of attendees at a convention.) The new attendance plaque will remain with Alpha Beta until the next state convention in 2017.

Nancy Wier announced that the summer planning meetings will be held in Chenoa on June 3 and August 12 at 8:30 am. All members are welcome to attend and share program ideas.

Janet Beyer (Fairbury) installed officers for the 2016-2018 biennium: President – Barbara Baumann (Minonk), Vice-President - Nancy Wier (Eureka), 2nd Vice-President – Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal), Recording Secretary – Lila McCulley (Minonk), Corresponding Secretary – Kate Walter (Cullom), Treasurer – Janet Kilgus (Fairbury). 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, classroom grants, leadership training, mentoring, and global networking opportunities for women. For more information, visit the website at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) or call Carol Hughes at 309-923-7370.



Early career educators Caressa Yeager, Amy Whisker, Allysa Thompson, and Carlie Canfield share how they will use their grants and supplies. Not pictured is Courtney Lowe.



Pictured are Lisa Watson (Pontiac) and her mother, Rachel Watson, (Pontiac), with Alpha Beta members Karen Harms (Fairbury) and Marylee Harms (Fairbury). Rachel is the recipient of the Alpha Beta Recruitment Grant to help in the pursuit of her degree.



Presenters Kate Walter and Michelle Harms presented the program on using Chrome Books in their classrooms.



Carol Hughes presents the Lambda State Convention Attendance Plaque to new Alpha Beta President Barb Baumann and outgoing President Carol Hoffman.