

CATHERINE DERIVAL

DIVISION II VICE PRESIDENT

CLIMB MOUNTAINS & REACH FOR THE STARS
VOTE CAT FOR DIV II & YOU'LL GO FAR!

Journey with me as we climb mountains together, where leadership guides the way and each step brings us closer to reaching the stars!



FLORIDA REGION
Xi Pi CHAPTER

POLK STATE COLLEGE (PSC)
WINTER HAVEN, FL

LET'S CONNECT



@academiacatofficial



cderival@my.polk.edu



@academiacat



<https://www.academiacat.org>



www.linkedin.com/in/catherinederival

Hi, I'm **Catherine**, but please, feel free to call me **Cat**!

I am studying **Computer Systems & Business Analysis** and hope to pursue a career within the **EdTech** industry!

I'm **New York-born**, but **Florida-raised**, within a vibrant Caribbean household. I'm **Guyanese & Haitian**, and was brought up to view education as a **necessity - a key to open doors** to a brighter and better future, one filled with many **golden opportunities**.

Through PTK, I've been inspired by so many people, and I want to **share** the knowledge I've gained. Let's take a look at the opportunities I've had to help myself and others like me **reach for the stars**!

ΦΘΚ

+1000



Advocacy Edge

+1000



Competitive Edge

+1000



Employment Edge

+1000



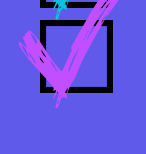
Healthcare Edge

+1000



Research Edge

+1000



Transfer Edge

+3000



Leadership
Development
Studies

My brain
power is
over 9000



LEADERSHIP

Leadership is the climb that leads us to the summit. Here's how I've taken bold steps to guide, inspire, and help my PTK friends reach for the stars:

- PTK Chapter **VP of Leadership**
- Backup **Regional Officer**
- **Leadership Development Studies Course Graduate**
- Hosted Florida's PTK **Regional Leadership Conference 2025**
- PTK Chapter **Meeting Coordinator**
- PTK Chapter **Minutes Secretary**
- **Student Government** Association Member (SGA)
- **Future Business Leaders of America** Member (FBLA)
- Communication Liaison for Honors in Action Partners (Organizations)



SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship is the discipline that fuels the climb. Here's how my commitment to learning has benefited me:

In the Service section, you'll see how I use these wins to benefit other students. When one of us wins, we all win!

- **All-USA Academic Team Nominee**
- State Farm Insurance Business Scholarship
- **Snap Finance "Funding the Future" Scholarship**
- **Dr. MLK Jr. "Dream the Dream" Scholarship**
- Polk State College Honors Scholarship
- Advocate for all Gift-Aid Opportunities
- **Oversaw & Led development** of Chapter's HIA project (riffsrootsrevelations.com)
- Discussed **PTK Connect** Extensively with Members



Orangethology, my orange-shaped squishmallow! I'm designating him as Florida's mascot!



SERVICE

Service is using every step of the climb to lift others higher. Here's how giving back helps one another climb the mountain and reach for the stars:

- Drawing from my experiences winning multiple scholarships, I **developed a website (academiacat.org) discussing the benefits of gift-aid** and how combining scholarships with non-traditional education is the key to **graduating without student debt.**
- Created a recurring **Scholarship Workshop** helping students look for, apply for, and WIN scholarships
 - Invited PSC's Scholarship Foundation Coordinators and integrated their feedback
 - Presented this workshop at **Florida International University**
- Created a **3-Part Career Readiness Workshop Series, helping students confidently transition from college to the workforce**
 - Invited PSC's Career Services Department Coordinators & integrated their professional advice
- Created a **Mental Health Awareness Workshop**, comparing the book series character **Where's Waldo to Impostor Syndrome**, and how to overcome it
 - Curated a group discussion about how impostor syndrome impacts our lives, but it's **our duty to persevere** through any self-deprecating mindset.
- Comp. Sci., Writing, Graphic Design **Tutor & Resume Designer**
- Winter Haven Hospital **Blood Donor**
- **The GraduATE A.I.D Podcast**



FELLOWSHIP

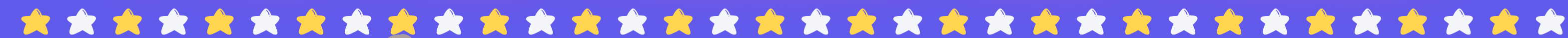
Fellowship is the climb we take together. Here's how I've built connections and participated in uplifting one another through community bonding:

- **PTK Catalyst 2025**
- PTK Florida's Regional Honors In Action (Mini-Honors) Conference
- PTK Florida's Mini Honors Folklore Storytelling Contest **1st Place Winner**
- PTK Florida Leadership Conference **Halloween Party Coordinator**
- PTK **Florida Regional Magazine** "The Athenian" Participant Issue II
- **PTK Publication 2025 Partners In Excellence** - Testimonial
- Certified **Soda Mixologist** For Events
- Chapter Fellowship Event Organizer
- **PTK Induction Ceremony Speaker**
- **College Club Rush** Coordinator
- Fall Festival Coordinator
- Created a **digital literary magazine** dedicated to **contrapuntal poems (aucontrairelit.com)**
- Video Game Developer



I made a game for you to play! There's a link on the last page and a playthrough video!

PTK FUN, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY



Lisette, who attended my workshop!



Pierre, the sweetest guy I know



Jackie! Florida's superstar
(I couldn't get the camera to focus)



Henna at
Club Rush

empowering community college transfer students.

A PTK partnership enhances your institution's visibility while supporting PTK's life-changing programs, scholarships, and resources for students nationwide. As a nonprofit, we reinvest revenue from partnerships with institutions like yours into programs that support student success.

What can you expect when partnering with us:

- To empower exceptional students to achieve academic success and make a global impact
- To engage with driven students dedicated to scholarship, leadership, and service
- To connect directly with high-achieving students actively seeking transfer opportunities
- To showcase your institution and scholarship offerings to a highly engaged and relevant audience
- To extend Direct Admission opportunities exclusively to Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members
- To represent your institution at the nation's largest transfer fair for community college students, along with virtual transfer events
- To be considered for inclusion in PTK's prestigious Transfer Honor Roll
- To enhance your expertise through dynamic professional development opportunities
- To receive personalized support from our experienced team of transfer professionals

Empowering your success is what drives us—and there's no better time than now. We're ready when you are. Contact us at collegerelations@ptk.org or visit recruitptk.org to get started.

PTK PARTNERS MATTER



Catherine Derival
Member
Polk State College, Florida

"PTK Connect changed the way I look for transfer opportunities by prompting me to seek out institutions that offer gift aid incentives in acknowledgment of my time being a PTK member. This tells me that these institutions pay attention to the honorable work PTK does not only as a source of student research opportunities, but also as a non-profit organization advocating for education accessibility."

"As an international student, the PTK Connect scholarship, and later the full-tuition Transfer Trustee Scholarship, allowed me to pursue my education."



PTK Partners In Excellence



I'm committed to
tearing up 100lbs
of seafood boils
and softshell
crabs in
Baltimore!



Sherlyn & I during
Halloween



A ring with my chapter's name
in Greek lettering - Xi Pi



So, WHAT DOES YOUR SLOGAN MEAN?



CLIMB MOUNTAINS & REACH FOR THE STARS

To climb a mountain means to successfully overcome a journey that is both physically arduous and emotionally challenging.

My goal is to ensure that everyone knows we **ALL MUST** climb mountains of some kind. Some mountains can be **small** and **seemingly insignificant** to anyone other than yourself, and some mountains can be quite **large, intimidating**, and **require a great deal of sacrifice**.

But, **regardless** of what the mountain is, one thing will always stand true, and that is the fact that **we need to overcome our obstacles** in order to **successfully accomplish our goals**, which are represented as the **stars**.

I believe **creativity is an integral part of the human experience**, and that belief, coupled with my interest in technology, allowed me to foster a deep love for **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math)

I'm a **HUGE advocate for education accessibility** through **gift-aid** and want people to know they must be **willing to create their own opportunities** to progress in life. Career-wise, I aspire to develop edTech for organizations committed to eradicating barriers to higher education.

I am excited to see what the future has in store for everyone who has been inspired by PTK! In the meantime, let's grab some gear and get ready to **climb mountains!**

<https://academiacat.itch.io/reach-for-the-stars>

