

Taylor Swanson

V.P. Division III



McHenry County College, Chi Upsilon Chapter
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Tell me what you're up to!



#SwanofChiUpsilon



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I grew up in a small town in Illinois, where going to college was neither expected nor discussed. The nearest community college was over 45-minutes away. I shared this reality with many raised in rural America. Far away from society, I felt increasingly invisible because my family was one of the poorest in town.

Early in my life, my only option was accepting responsibility. I started working as a high school sophomore to help my single parent support 5 children. Often, I'd change into my work uniform as soon as I finished class. Over a decade later, after starting my own family, I realized that I needed more than waking up simply to work.

With my background, I had often heard that college wasn't meant for people like me. Beginning my journey in community college was my way of taking control of the future and proving their misconceptions wrong. As chapter president of Chi Upsilon, I've been introduced to so many amazing people who have shared their life stories with me. Guiding them has shown me how advocacy and encouragement can transform even the most underprivileged person.

I choose to lead because I want others to believe they can navigate any obstacle life presents, no matter the circumstances. I believe true leadership is empowering, that is why I am running for International Office with Phi Theta Kappa. Through my encouragement and advocacy I can reach further to inspire those who need it the most.

If I can do it, **so can you!**

Leadership



I became the President of the Chi Upsilon Chapter in 2025. Each semester I've had the chance to take on some amazing leadership roles like leading educational forums at the Illinois Regional Convention & Honors Institute, helping others find their voices at "Leading Illinois Together," and my absolute favorite, serving as the Master of Ceremonies for the Chi Upsilon 2025 Fall Induction Ceremony!

Scholarship



I can proudly say that I've maintained a 4.0 GPA across 48 credit hours. It hasn't been easy, but I am honored to have made the Presidential list throughout my entire college career.

Our PTK Edge courses were designed to give us the edge to succeed, so I have completed Competitive, Employment, Healthcare, and Transfer courses.



Fellowship

Spending time with my team keeps me motivated. I've had the chance to mentor our Vice President of Fellowship, who has become both my campaign manager and a good friend.

From visiting the pumpkin patch with Illinois' Theta Omega Chapter to organizing a campus-wide event with Cocoa, Crafts, and Conversation, my fall semester was full of new connections.

Service

My experience with PTK has been incredibly rewarding, and it feels great to give back whenever possible.

Helping host events like New Student Orientation, Student Organization Fairs, Books for Africa, and seasonal clothing drives has been exciting and fulfilling, while keeping my peers engaged and informed.

