



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

Board of Directors Regional Coordinator Representative Election

Name: Mary Linder

College: Grayson College

Chapter: Omicron Psi

Advisor Start Date: 2009

How long have you served as a chapter advisor and Regional Coordinator?

I became Omicron Psi Chapter advisor in January 2009. I was named Texas Regional Coordinator in November 2017.

What is your position at the college?

I serve as a Government Professor at Grayson College, and I just celebrated my 20-year anniversary in January.

What does student success mean to you, and where does Phi Theta Kappa fit into that story?

Student success means students feel seen, supported, and confident that they belong in higher education. Phi Theta Kappa often becomes the moment when students realize they are capable of more than they imagined. I have watched Phi Theta Kappa open doors to leadership development opportunities, scholarships, and community for students who once doubted themselves. For many, it is not just an honor society, but a turning point in how they see their future.

Describe your most significant contribution to Phi Theta Kappa's mission.

My most significant contribution was the very first decision I made as Regional Coordinator: waiving the regional fee for students receiving the Golden Opportunity Scholarship. My predecessor told me, "I want you to remember the very first decision you made as Texas Regional Coordinator was to eliminate a barrier to membership." That moment stays with me and guides my work. Every decision I make is grounded in access, equity, and what best serves our students.

Why do you wish to serve as the Regional Coordinator Representative to Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors?

I wish to continue serving in this role because students are the reason I do this work. During some of the most challenging moments in Phi Theta Kappa's history, I have worked on the Board to be a steady voice advocating for affordability, access, and continued financial stability without increasing membership fees. Representing a large and diverse region like Texas means ensuring students from every college and background remain central to every decision.

Additionally, please provide a "PTK Bio" below that highlights your involvement with Phi Theta Kappa in list format (including key roles, dates, and recognition).

2009 – Advisor, Omicron Psi Chapter at Grayson College
2010 – Horizon Award, Texas Region
2010 – Presentation "Incorporating Research for Success," Texas Honors Institute
2011 – Horizon Award, Texas Region
2011 – Paragon Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2011 – Presentation "Service in Your Community," Texas Leadership Conference
2013 – Horizon Award, Texas Region
2013 – Presentation "Participating in Relay For Life," International Convention
2013 – Named District II Coordinator, Texas Region
2014 – District II Hall of Honor, Texas Region
2014 – Most Distinguished Advisor, Texas Region
2014 – Distinguished Advisor Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2014 – Presentation "Resume Writing and Interview Tips," International Convention
2014 – Honors Seminar Leader, Texas Honors Institute
2015 – Named Director of Sponsorships, Texas Region
2015 – Texas Hall of Honor for Advisors, Texas Region
2015 – Texas Regional Coordinator's Award, Texas Region
2015 – Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Phi Theta Kappa International
2015 – Presentation "Becoming a Civic Leader," International Convention
2015 – Presentation "Beyond the Basics: HIA Service/Advocacy," Honors Institute
2015 – Honors Seminar Leader, Texas Honors Institute

2015 – Presentation “Honors in Action 102,” Texas Honors Institute
2016 – Leadership Development Studies Certification
2016 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Texas Region
2016 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2016 – Honors Study Topic Panel, Texas Regional Convention
2016 – Academy Facilitator, International Convention
2016 – Presentation “Opportunities for Regional Engagement,” International Convention
2016 – Faculty Scholar/Seminar Leader, Honors Institute
2016 – Presentation “College Project Best Practices,” Honors Institute
2016 – Presentation “College Project Best Practices,” Webinar for Division III Regional Officers
2016 – Keynote, “Overview of Honors Study,” Texas Honors Institute
2016 – Honors Seminar Leader, Texas Honors Institute
2016 – Presentation “Building Community,” Virtual presentation for Headquarters
2016 – Facilitator for Student Panel, Texas Leadership Conference
2017 – Named Texas Regional Coordinator
2017 – Texas Hall of Honor for Advisors, Texas Region
2017 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Texas Region
2017 – Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Phi Theta Kappa International
2017 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2017 – Presentation “Serving our Mission through Five Star Chapter Plan,” International Convention
2017 – Faculty Scholar/Seminar Leader, Honors Institute
2017 – Presentation “Hallmark Awards in Depth: College Project,” Honors Institute
2017 – Honors Seminar Leader, Texas Honors Institute
2017 – Presentation “Hosting a College Transfer Fair,” Webinar for Headquarters
2018 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Texas Region
2018 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2018 – Presentation “Five Star Chapter Development Plan,” International Convention
2018 – Honors in Action Panel, Texas Honors Institute
2019 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Texas Region
2019 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2019 – Presentation “Honors in Action: Action!,” International Convention
2019 – Keynote, “Leading with the Texas Truths,” Texas Leadership Conference
2020 – Appointed as RC Representative to Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors
2020 – Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Texas Region
2020 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Texas Region
2020 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2020 – Keynote, Alpha Mu Tau Chapter Summer Induction
2020 – Speaker, “Confronting and Unlearning Toxic Masculinity,” TEDxPlano Salon, Alpha Mu Tau Chapter
2020 – Presentation “Time Management,” Webinar for Texas Region
2020 – Keynote, Alpha Gamma Zeta Chapter Fall Induction
2020 – Keynote, Alpha Rho Mu Chapter Fall Induction
2020 – Keynote, Alpha Mu Tau Chapter Fall Induction

2021 – Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Texas Region
2021 – Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Phi Theta Kappa International
2021 – Keynote Phi Tau Chapter Spring Induction
2021 – Keynote Omega Sigma Spring Induction
2021 – Keynote Lambda Theta Spring Induction
2021 – Keynote Alpha Zeta Eta Spring Induction
2021 – Keynote Alpha Mu Tau Fall Induction
2022 – Elected RC Representative to Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors
2022 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Texas Region
2022 – Pinnacle Award for Excellence, Texas Region
2022 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2022 – Presentation “Award Winning Advisors Discuss the Honors in Action Process,” PTK Catalyst
2023 – Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Texas Region
2023 – Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Phi Theta Kappa International
2024 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Texas Region
2024 – Presentation “Phi Theta Kappa: The Key to Student Success,” Texas Community College Teachers Association
2024 – Presentation “Partnering with Phi Theta Kappa,” Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
2025 – Continued Excellence Award for Advisors, Texas Region
2025 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Texas Region
2025 – Distinguished Advisor Team Award, Phi Theta Kappa International
2025 – Presentation “Mastering the Clock: Essential Time Management Skills for Success,” PTK Catalyst