

Kaitlyn "Rose" Durkin

International President Candidate

Beta Chi Chi - Ivy Tech Community College

Valparaiso, Indiana



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My story

Hello, my name is Kaitlyn, and I go by Rose. I am campaigning for the position of International President so that I can learn how to be a better leader to everyone from all walks of life and communities.

I am a nursing student and aspire to become a surgeon one day. I currently work as an EMT, and volunteer with my local fire department and animal rescue network.

My fire department serves over 72 square miles. In December 2025, I was voted firefighter of the year, 3 years and under. Through my work with Second Chance 4 Pets, we have homed over 700 cats and kittens that were surrendered to us. I currently care for three cats in hospice and plan to build my own animal sanctuary to serve as a hospice for FELV+ cats.

Becoming an IO with PTK is the best way for me to access that opportunity. It will allow me to tell my story and facilitate growth in those around me whose stories are similar to mine. This is exactly why I am here. To help others.

In my plethora of free time, I am also a mother to an amazing teenage boy. He is my strength and my kindness, and that is why I push as much as I do. I am working to show my son that all is possible with hard work.



MY SERVICE

ANIMAL RESCUE

"I HAVE HELPED SECOND CHANCE 4 PETS FIND 700 CATS HOMES THROUGH ADOPTION AT MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA'S THE REGION CAT CAFE."



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER



"I AM A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR THE NORTH JUDSON WAYNE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT. I JOINED TO DEEPEN MY LEARNING AND BETTER SERVE MY COMMUNITY."

HONORS INSTITUTE CHICAGO



"THE HONORS INSTITUTE ALLOWED ME TO MEET MANY AMAZING SCHOLARS FROM ACROSS THE USA".



"I HAVE HELPED COLLECT OVER 500 ITEMS TO ADDRESS LOCAL FOOD INSECURITIES"

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA):

PTK INDIANA VP- NORTH

- PTK Indiana VP North
 - Captain-Scholar Dash; 3rd Place Region
- Chapter Level
 - SGA Public Relations Officer



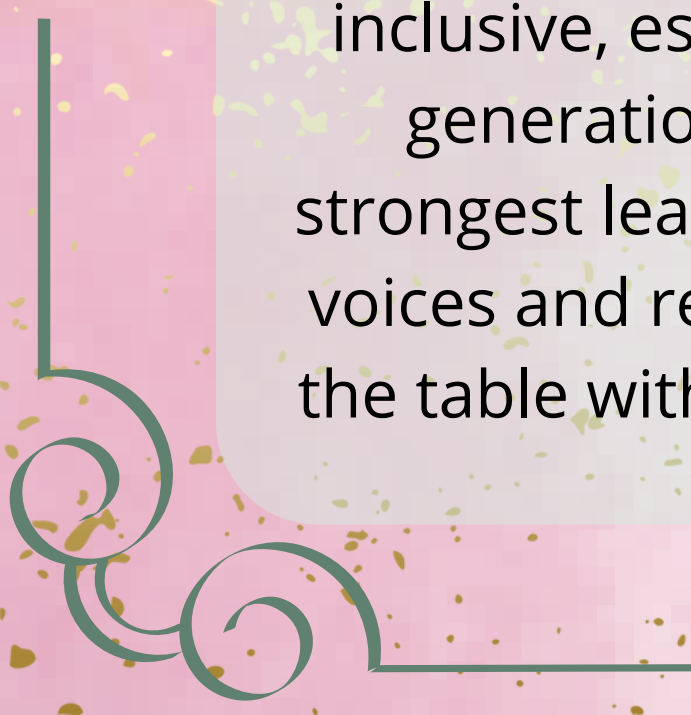
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

As an EMT, service is at the core of who I am. I believe every person deserves compassion, dignity, and support in their most vulnerable moments. I am committed to serving others with both skill and empathy, not only in my profession but in every aspect of my life. My goal is to make a meaningful impact and ensure that no one feels alone in their struggles.



My Leadership Philosophy

My leadership is grounded in servant leadership, responsibility, and understanding. As an EMT and volunteer firefighter, I have learned that true leadership is not about being the loudest voice, but about listening, showing up when it matters, and making thoughtful decisions under pressure. In moments of crisis, people do not need perfection; they need compassion, trust, and steady guidance. I strive to lead in a way that is welcoming and inclusive, especially for nontraditional, first-generation, and working students. The strongest leaders create space for overlooked voices and remind others that they belong at the table without having to prove their worth.



Call to Action

Being a part of the PTK is more than just academic success for students like me. This community represents perseverance, service, and the belief that education can change lives. I am living proof of that belief. I am a student, a mother, a first responder, and a servant leader who understands the challenges we all face because I face them too. I am ready to listen, ready to serve, and ready to lead.

Together, we can strengthen a sense of belonging within Phi Theta Kappa and ensure every member feels seen, supported, and empowered to lead in their own way.

