CREATE YOUR POWER

Lavada's first experience at community college was not a successful journey. She faced significant financial barriers and food insecurity, and ultimately, she had to drop out. Eighteen years later, determined to be a positive example to her boys, Lavada resumed her academic career by enrolling at Grayson College. Lavada created the power she needed to accomplish her educational and career goals.

CHANGE YOUR STORY

Lavada excelled at Grayson College, which resulted in her invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa. She accepted membership and began attending weekly chapter meetings. Around the same time, Lavada began battling depression, and struggled to get out of bed. Her counselor encouraged her to find something that would motivate her to get up each day. Heeding that advice, Lavada forced herself to go to her induction ceremony. There, she saw one of the new officers whom she had met at a chapter meeting. His excitement inspired her, and she felt she had found her place. She decided to seek opportunities to get involved, and more importantly, she found something to help her manage her depression. Phi Theta Kappa saved her life.

CRAFT YOUR LEGACY

Legacy is extremely important to Lavada. She believes we should always seek ways to help others and leave this world better than we found it. Lavada believes Phi Theta Kappa is a vital component of this mission. She has grown tremendously from the many opportunities membership has afforded her, and she now feels it is her responsibility to pay that forward. This is what led her to seek chapter office, then Regional President, and now International President. She wants to do all she can to spread awareness of Phi Theta Kappa and encourage more students to join. Lavada wants to serve as a resource and be part of the support system for all members. She wants to help others change their stories and let that be her legacy.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Former Texas Regional President
Former Chapter President
Five Star Competitive Edge Complete
Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees
Leadership Development Studies Certificate
Keynote Speaker at Texas Community College Teachers Association Annual Convention
Transfer Edge Complete
Texas District II Hall of Honor
Staff Writer for campus newspaper, The Viking
Texas Hall of Honor for Officers
Texas Distinguished Chapter Officer Team