



National College Honor Scholarship Society

Association of College Honor Societies Member

April 22, 2013

Dr. Robert Rhodes
Office of Provost
Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 29103
Abilene, TX 79699-8156

Dear Dr. Rhodes:

I'm writing today to commend Drs. Mikee Delony and Lynette Austin, the Alpha Chi sponsors from your campus. During this especially busy season of the academic year, Drs. Delony and Austin attended the 2013 annual convention in Nashville, sponsoring seven students, six of whom presented researched essays, posters, and/or creative endeavors. Because so much of what they do for our most academically talented students is behind the scenes, I wanted to note that attending a national convention is an extensive and detailed process for volunteer sponsors, involving assisting each student to compose a paper proposal, securing sufficient funds for registration, travel, and other expenses for the entire delegation, preparing the students to present at an academic conference, making the travel arrangements, and then accompanying the students throughout the 3-day conference itself. Additionally, Dr. Delony served as a discipline judge of student presentations at the convention. Although it's not technically part of the conference, during the same timeframe, most of these sponsors are also facilitating the Alpha Chi national and regional scholarship process on their home campus, coordinating the students' applications, reference letters, and nomination letters. Often they also hold a spring induction on campus to honor yet another class of high-achieving juniors, seniors, and graduate students. Students who attend an Alpha Chi national convention routinely speak of the value it adds to their education, the layer of preparation it affords for graduation school, the networking and collegiality unlike any other conference, the service project which allows them meaningful civic engagement, and the plenary speakers who motivate and inspire them to achieve the Alpha Chi ideal of making their scholarship effective for good. I hope you'll soon get the opportunity to hear from your students themselves about their convention experiences in Nashville.

These Alpha Chi students will soon become the alumni your university can point to with pride. In an era when the faculty climate for volunteer service may be cool, you can be proud that Drs. Delony and Austin continue to serve with distinction as your Alpha Chi sponsors, giving your brightest students life-changing opportunities. I'm pleased to add that Dr. Delony received the Distinguished Service Award at the convention, a mark of the high esteem of her colleagues. Only seven sponsors from among the more than 300 active chapters received this recognition, so I know you'll want to congratulate her. I look forward to continuing to partner with Abilene Christian University in scholarship and service.

Cordially,

Dr. Trisha Yarbrough