



# HERE AND THERE



## PI OMEGA PI

National Business Education Honor Society  
Member of the Association of College Honor Society

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### President's Message



**Dr. Ivan Wallace**  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC

Our semester and competition year is about to come to a close. Thanks to all of you for the outstanding work that you have done on behalf of Pi Omega Pi and business education at our schools and in your communities.

Congratulations to the new members who have been initiated this year and who now hold membership in Pi Omega Pi, our honor society for business teacher education.

Please remember to submit your national project reports to the judging chapter, Beta Kappa Chapter, East Carolina University, postmarked by Saturday, February 1, 2014. Your reports should cover the competition year of January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013. Your Chapter's Activity Report should be mailed to Ms. Darla Stone, Secretary-Treasurer, postmarked by February 1, 2014.

I hope you are all planning to attend the NBEA 2014 Annual Convention to be held on April 15-19 at LA Live, Los Angeles. While 2014 is not a POP convention year, Pi Omega Pi members and advisers will meet in the convention hotel on Thursday or possibly Friday this time. We are planning a short program, and 2013 awards will be presented. Watch your e-mail, the POP website, and Facebook for more details. I encourage you to attend the NBEA Convention and reap the benefits of an excellent program and networking with outstanding business educators across the country. We will be calling for proposals from the chapters to provide 2 or 3 sessions similar to what we do for the biennial convention.

### Important Reminder from your Secretary-Treasurer

#### Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Tax-Exempt Organizations — e-Postcard (Form 990-N)

Each chapter sponsor needs to file the Form 990-N for his/her Pi Omega Pi chapter. This form is available in electronic form only and is called an e-postcard. You need to file in **January or February**. If you filled last year, you do not need to create an account again.

All Pi Omega Pi Chapters must file a 990-N Form each year (not the 990 or the 990 EZ). Because we are a subchapter and are tax exempt with receipts less than \$25,000 a year, we need to submit Form 990-N. The form is informational only but must come from you as the local chapter sponsor. This requirement is a result of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and is for tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006. If you fail to do so, you will lose your tax-exempt status after three warnings. Each subchapter fills out a 990N form because it is safe to assume that we do not have receipts of more than \$25,000.

This form is available online at this link: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

### Student Rep's Message



Happy New Year! Do any of you have any resolutions relating to bettering yourself as a teacher? Whether you are student teaching right now or just starting out, there is no time like the present to work on becoming a better educator for our students!

The National Business Education Association Convention is coming up! This year's conference will be held in Los Angeles, CA,

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## Chapter News

### Student Rep's Message (Continued)

April 16-19, 2014. While it is not a Pi Omega Pi conference year, I encourage your chapter to attend. Pi Omega Pi will still have opportunities to get together and collaborate with our peers. The convention is an amazing opportunity for you to learn from and get ideas on anything and everything business-education related.

As your national student representative, I am here to assist you in any way possible. I know we are all over the country, but I would still like to create a sense of Pi Omega Pi "family" amongst us. This is why I have created the Pi Omega Pi President's Network group on Facebook. It is open for anyone to join (not just presidents). Please follow the link on the Pi Omega Pi website to join.

### Beta Kappa News

East Carolina University

**Beta Kappans** are in full swing and planning two events for spring 2014 where students and alumni can participate.

### Zeta Eta Chapter News

Kansas State University

**Zeta Eta members** have had a busy fall semester of fundraising. The chapter sold t-shirts for the first fundraiser and are now in the process of selling iPad covers in an effort to have funds to travel to Los Angeles in April 2014 to the National Business Education Association conference. With finals fast approaching, chapter members are busy finishing final projects and preparing for exams.

## Articles

### Ergonomics in the Computer Classroom

by Shelley Kemper  
Zeta Eta Chapter

Ergonomics in the classroom has been frequently overlooked until here lately when computers have become a mainstay. In the past, computers labs were normally set up on folding tables, with normal chairs and the monitors sitting on top of the desktops. This was the easiest way to put the lab together, and we weren't paying much attention to the damage that could be caused by repetitive tasks over extended periods of time. Now that there are studies about the harm that sitting in front of a computer all day with bad posture can do, teachers must be smarter about the set-ups of their classroom.

Ergonomic classroom furniture needs to accommodate various height, weight and physical challenges of individuals with class changes throughout the day. This necessitates adjustable seating and works spaces that do not become distractions for students.

The keyboard should be 28 inches from the floor for optimum comfort. The CPU should be stored in a shelf below the desk so that it is out of sight but still in reach for the students. Cords need to be organized and out of sight as much as possible to keep the room from looking cluttered and to avoid tripping or accidental unplugging. This will help students focus on their work.

The floor plans for a computer lab is a consideration. Computer classrooms today aren't necessarily just used for computer use. Having moveable tables and chairs if you have a mobile lab so that you can move the students into small groups to work together on projects. If you have a desktop lab, you could put the computers around the outside edge of the classroom so that the teacher can walk around and easily help any student with a question. Also, you could set the desktops in small circles to promote group work and communication between students. All of these are great ways to keep your students happy and healthy in your computer lab.

#### Reference

Kessell, J. (n.d.). Ergonomics Applied to the Computer Classroom. *Christian School Products*. Retrieved April 24, 2013, from <http://www.christianschoolproducts.com/articles/2008-March/Departments/Ergonomics-Applied-to-the-Computer-Classroom.htm>