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ALPHA CHI

PRESS RELEASE

University of North Texas Team Claims 2017 Collaborative Prize

Searcy, Ark.—With a project titled “Literacy for All Students in Denton: Methods of Transcending Boundaries to Effect Change,” the team of student researchers from the University of North Texas received the 2017 Nationwide Insurance Collaborative Research Prize at the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society national convention in Louisville in April. Competition guidelines require chapters to assemble a team of three to five student researchers from at least three different departments; this team then develops a research problem from the general topic announced in the fall—this year’s topic was Transcending Boundaries. The University of North Texas team was composed of Rosana Adams, Rachel Duffy, Sonia Gomez, Giselle Greenidge, and Brandi Webster. Using a phenomenological research design, their research focused “on the history of education, support systems in the city, and the progress towards improving literacy in both mathematics and reading, for all students.” The University of North Texas chapter sponsor is Dr. Jeanne Tunks.

Representing the diversity of majors present in every Alpha Chi chapter, as well as the breadth of the scholarship conducted by some 300 campus chapters, two other teams brought finished projects to this year’s competition. East Central University’s project was titled “Water is Life: Sustainable Water Systems for Place-Bound Communities.” Team members presenting were Lacy Crisler, Allyson Gregory, Faith Lasiter, and Talor Stewart. ECU’s faculty sponsor was Dr. Christine Pappas. Their team experienced extreme travel difficulties, with multiple cancelled flights due to severe weather. Ultimately only one team member made it to the convention with Dr. Pappas, with the other members answering questions from the audience by video conference. Their research considered safety, durability, cost, and environmental impact of several water systems the United Nations might choose to enact.

Ouachita Baptist University also brought a team to the competition, with a project titled “Facing the Uncertain Future of Infectious Disease.” Team members were Jace Bradshaw, Cyntanna Coker-Hawkins, Katie Smith, and Austin White. The project considered the problem of antibiotics losing their potency, and two avenues for solving it: discovering new bacteria that produced antibiotics and the creation of new antibiotics. It also examined the economic implications and the public’s perception towards both methods. The Ouachita Baptist chapter sponsor is Dr. Lori Hensley, professor of biology, and a recipient of Alpha Chi’s Outstanding Sponsor Award for 2017.

The 2017 Collaborative Research Prize is proudly sponsored by Alpha Chi’s affinity partner Nationwide Insurance. Nationwide recognizes the importance of groups that bring people together to celebrate common interests and academic achievement. Nationwide also recognizes there is no better way to provide outstanding service than to partner with the organizations that are close to your heart. Alpha Chi is grateful that Nationwide not only offers a useful product but also values the scholarly excellence of these students.

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society invites to membership juniors, seniors, and graduate students from all disciplines in the top ten percent of their classes. Active on nearly 300 campuses nationwide, chapters induct more than 10,000 students annually. Since the Society's founding in 1922, Alpha Chi members have dedicated themselves to "making scholarship effective for good." Alpha Chi is a member in good standing of the Association of College Honor Societies, the only national accrediting body for collegiate honor societies.

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