

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Seven Purposes

Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and a group of key women educators met in 1929 on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin to build an organization to promote women in Education and bring recognition and respect to their profession. The result of their planning was the founding of the *Delta Kappa Gamma Society International* with five guiding Purposes. These Purposes grew to seven and govern all levels of the Society today (*DKG Constitution, II*). The activities of each level of the Society implement the **Purposes of the Society**. The Purposes may be amended only by action of the International Convention by a constitutional amendment.

I. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship

Delta Kappa Gamma members expand their friendships and increase their appreciation of women educators at home and abroad through travel, participation in International Organizations, Chapter meetings, conferences, workshops and Conventions. Seminars, travel and study experiences, projects and programs are additional means of implementing this Purpose. *World Fellowship* grants provide opportunities for extended communication and understanding. The *Emergency Fund* gives \$500 to a member who suffers extensive loss from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and similar disasters.

II. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education

The Founders sought to initiate outstanding women educators who could achieve still more when associated with other professional educators. Membership in the Society continues to carry recognition of superior potential and accomplishment. Women educators are honored by being invited to join a select group of women who have been successful in their professional careers. Honorary membership may be extended to women who have made significant contributions to education and/or the advancement of women educators but who are not eligible for active membership.

III. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education

One of the chief motivations for the founding of the Society was Dr. Annie Webb Blanton's belief that qualified women educators should be given equal opportunities in all areas of professional work. Members of the Society have been influential in bringing about promotion opportunities and single salary schedules. Through the International and Pi State Scholarship programs, the Society endeavors to encourage and assist members to advance their professional interests, competencies and positions. Projects supported by the *Golden Gift Fund*, such as the Leadership/Management Seminar and special stipends, advance the work of the Society.

IV. To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators

Members of the Society in State Organizations and Chapters have consistently supported efforts on a non-partisan basis to support legislation and endeavors that encourage improvements in Education. At all levels, the Society has cooperated with other professional organizations in support of legislation to advance education and/or the status of women in education.

V. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to women educators from other countries

The first national scholarship of \$1,000 for Graduate study was awarded in 1940. Currently, the International Scholarship Committee is charged with annually awarding up to thirty (30) \$6,000 scholarships to members for study at the Master's degree and \$10,000 for work at the Doctorate level. Pi State offers an annual scholarship with a maximum of \$2000 as well as Grants-in-Aid. Voluntary contributions by members to the international *World Fellowship Fund* afford women from other countries \$4,000 graduate study awards to study at universities in the United States or Canada. Many scholarships and grants-in-aid are granted each year to members by State Organizations and Chapters.

VI. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action

The Society encourages and assists the personal and professional growth of members for effective participation as educators and civic leaders. Leadership development opportunities and workshops are conducted by the Society. Members are encouraged to plan, implement and evaluate programs of study and action. The International Educational Foundation and Pi State Educational Foundation offer grants for member and Chapter projects.

VII. To inform the members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society

Programs, seminars, publications and travel & study experiences are provided to assist members in expanding their knowledge and understanding, in studying and assessing current issues, and in enriching their personal lives. Rich interpersonal relationships and challenging personal experiences provide opportunities for effective participation in a world society.