

# espconnection

Number CIX

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

August 2009

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## Engage, Enlighten, and Enjoy...Message from the National President

Ellen Burton, National President

In just a few short weeks we will gather in Fargo, North Dakota for the 2009 National ESP Conference. Conference participants will have opportunities to explore the area, experience the culture, expand their knowledge through in-depth professional development; network with colleagues and make new professional contacts—all while enjoying the sights and sounds of North Dakota. Thank you North Dakota for the excellent job you have done in orchestrating our upcoming National Conference.

Just as the 2009 National ESP Conference is rapidly approaching, so is the end of my term as National ESP President. It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your National President during this year of economic challenges. During my Extension career I have found that one thing always remains constant— Extension is always facing challenges and we are always changing—or evolving.

In light of the economic challenges facing our chapters, and our members, your National ESP Board carefully weighed decisions that would economically impact the organization and we made concerted efforts to control costs while expanding opportunities for members. Examples include expanded professional development through the utilization of technology such as Web casts, which allowed ESP to reach members in all parts of the nation with "Ethics in Extension" and "Weathering Economic Challenges." More opportunities such as these, offered at minimal cost to participants, are being planned for the future.

As a result of action taken during the 2008 National ESP Council Meeting the Marketing Committee became the seventh Standing Committee of ESP. The work of this committee resulted in:

- Implementation of the new ESP logo approved at the 2008 National Council Meeting.
- Development of marketing style sheets, templates, brochures, and letterhead.
- Development of the new ESP Web site, which integrates some of the newest features of Web design. Additionally ESP hopes to have a BLOG for member use.
- Kathy Reiser, IL, authored the verbal description of the ESP logo. This information can be found on the ESP Web site.

Judy Carlson, IA, is chairing the newly appointed ESP History Committee. Susan Hansen, NB, Gary Moran, ND, and Duane Johnson, OR, are working with Judy to bring the history of ESP into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They will be expanding on the early history found in the book

(continued on pg 3)

**2009 National ESP Conference—  
There is still time to register and  
space available!**



## Take the ESP Leadership Challenge

Fay B. Strickler, National ESP Past President 2002, PA

Little did I know that a 1987 ESP initiation ceremony in Alpha Omicron - The PA chapter would be the beginning of a path to numerous national leadership roles that would alter and enhance my career as a Family and Consumer Science Educator for Penn State Cooperative Extension – Berks County!

After joining ESP, I immediately began serving on committees, holding offices and networking with professional colleagues on state and national levels in the Cooperative Extension Professionals Organization. The ESP mentoring process was working silently as leadership skills were shared, seeds were planted and I was challenged to learn and grow as doors opened to many opportunities to serve in leadership roles.

In 1999, I was elected as Second Vice President and chair of the professional development committee for the National ESP organization and began the rotation through the leadership chairs culminating in serving as President in 2002. On more than one occasion nerves reminded me that perhaps I had bitten off more than I could chew, (e.g. - chairing a national video conference with more than 30 states participating with only a few months to prepare). But, in ESP there are many mentors and special friends who provide support and encouragement and are there to celebrate successes.

ESP provides multiple opportunities for leadership roles, such as helping to plan the Public Issues Leadership Development

## What Can the Global Relations Committee Do For You?

Adapted by an article written by Mary Alice Gettings, Pennsylvania

; Updated by Justen Smith, Global Relations Committee Chair

The National ESP Global Relations Committee is here to help you enhance your professional and personal development through experiences in foreign countries and at home. If you have an interest in international opportunities hit the Go Global button on the ESP website. The Go Global link lists the majority of Non Government Organizations (NGO's) and Government Organizations that are looking for consultants and experts to work internationally. With the click of a button, the International Travel Information will help you with information on obtaining insurance and immunizations you may need. If you are interested in sharing your time and expertise with ESP please join us on the National Global Relations Committee. We are always looking for new recruits. ESP's National Handbook, Section D, covers the purpose and responsibilities of a Global Relations Committee member. A brochure is also included detailing how you as an Extension professional can become involved in Extension International Programs.

At the state level, we encourage an active Global Relations Committee. Epsilon Sigma Phi's Chapter Handbook, page 28, provides a fact sheet listing program ideas that can be carried out at the state level.

YOU can contribute to the work of the Global Relations Committee. Visit the ESP website to review the committee's 2009 Plan of Work. We are specifically looking for evaluation tools that states use to measure the impact of international work. We are also looking for articles from any ESP member that has completed an international assignment or is working domestically with people of other cultures. Please share your international successes with us. Please contact Justen Smith, Global Relations Chair at [justen.smith@usu.edu](mailto:justen.smith@usu.edu) with resources you have to share.

Conference, for Extension professionals from across the country, held annually in Washington, D.C. For me, a highlight was being asked to serve as one of five field based educator representatives to the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, a 22-member National Leadership Advisory Council.

After almost 35 years in extension, I retired in 2006 and was honored to be asked to submit documentation for the "*Berks County Women in History, Profiles,*" volume 2, an initiative of the Berks County Commission for Women. The book honors women who, through leadership roles, have made substantial contributions to the quality of life in Berks County from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present. My county educational programming and experiences gained through ESP leadership roles at both state and national level provided significant data for inclusion and recognition in the book.

After retirement my husband and I moved to Garden Spot Village in the heart of the PA Dutch Country in Lancaster County. In addition to a date book filled with travel at home and abroad, I am enjoying leadership roles in the Marketing Department, the Share and Care Shop and am passionate about designing and creating quilts for sale at our fall benefit auction.

I'm glad I accepted the ESP leadership challenge and I encourage you to do so. The opportunities can and will enhance both your professional and personal life!



## Engage, Enlighten, and Enjoy...Message from the National President, Continued

"The People and The Profession". The committee plans to have a DRAFT of the updated history by October 2010.

For nine years Epsilon Sigma Phi has had the good fortune to have Linda Cook as our Executive Director. Linda 's organizational skills, attention to detail, and organizational memory have been exemplary .Linda announced last year that she wished to retire from her position with ESP at the close of the 2009 National ESP Conference. While ESP wishes Linda well in her retirement we also know that we shall miss her.

Knowing that Linda wished to retire your National ESP Board asked Bonnie McGhee, Past National ESP President to Chair the Search Committee for the ESP Executive Director. Following a national search, phone interviews and in person interviews Robert (Bob) Ohlensehlen of Idaho was hired as the new ESP Executive Director. Many of you know Bob as he is a Past National ESP President. Bob will assume his duties at the close of the 2009 National ESP Conference.

As my year as National ESP President draws to a close I am reminded of the question I asked at the beginning of the year—"What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?" The answers to this question appear as the results described above. As President I have had the opportunity to work with individuals who were willing to expand their thoughts, try innovative methods, take risks, and seek greater diversity of involvement. I am honored to have worked with such a group of outstanding professionals. It has been my honor to serve as your National President.

## Important Dates Ahead Mark Your Calendar!



- **2010 National ESP Conference, October 10-15, Jackson Hole, Wyoming**
- **2011 National ESP Conference, October 9-13, Syracuse, New York**
- **2012 National ESP Conference, October 6-9, Mobile, Alabama**
- **2013 Galaxy IV, September 15-22, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

## Confessions of a Chapter President

Mike Duttweiler, Lambda Chapter President, NY

OK, I'll admit it. I came to this role more than a little reluctantly. No, I wasn't avoiding celebrity or the paparazzi. Rather, I was concerned whether I would be able to carve out the time to sustain the strong leadership the chapter has had recently and historically. Our chapter, like most professional organizations in today's economic and employment climate, has had to work hard to sustain core membership. That number has vacillated around 40 for the past several years. That's not many in a system of our size and is significantly smaller than our historic highs. The reasons are complex and range from perceived cost, to changing employment patterns, to competing professional identities, to simple time demands. And yet, the ongoing membership, and particularly those who have stepped forward to assume committee and board leadership roles, have done us proud with continuing contributions to professional development and active promotion of the Extension profession. Some such as Gretchen Ferez, Beth Claypoole, and Marilyn Smith have continued Lambda Chapter's tradition of serving ESP National through various committee roles.

The Chapter's productive work has taken lots of different forms including, for example, multiple sponsored sessions in system conferences, active partnering with CCE's other professional organizations to develop a professional development small grants program, regular recognition of professional accomplishments, co-sponsoring the Friend of Extension Award with the Director, and promoting and recognizing multicultural initiatives.

So yes, I succumbed and agreed to serve as your president and am glad that I did. It gives me a close-in opportunity to work with a cadre of dedicated extension professionals from all corners of CCE on a variety of rewarding projects. When I first started with Extension before some of you were born, ESP seemed a mysterious and yes, somewhat distant group. But, it was clear to me even then they stood for and behind the Extension profession. Our numbers may be fewer but that spirit and dedication continues. Maybe it's your turn.... Please consider contributing a modicum of your energy to our substantive and important work whether you are a long-standing member or new to the fold. There are many modest ways in which to contribute and our active leadership is here to facilitate your involvement.

## Investment in Public Issues Education for Extension

Mary Ellen Waltemire, National ESP-Public Issues Committee, MD

Many of you have had the unique opportunity to participate in the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conference and like many other states, we were indeed fortunate to have a strong delegation from Maryland attend this year. As the team orientation evolved the Maryland leader, Ms. Theresa McCoy, was able to connect with area experts, one of whom was the Director of Federal Relations and Assistant to the University of Maryland President. Dr. Rae Grad provided valuable tips and strategies for working on Capitol Hill with legislators and their aides. In addition, Dr. Bonnie Braun, the Hershel S. Horowitz Endowed Chair and Director, Center for Health Literacy at the University of Maryland, worked with the team to understand the process of "naming and framing" public issues. Another valuable resource for this team was Ms. Gwen Wolford, an Ohio State Extension colleague who works tirelessly in legislative relations. Like many of you, the Maryland Public Issues team worked together prior to the conference to identify legislators to meet with, to coordinate marketing materials and talking points and to plan logistics to make this journey successful and productive.

PILD Team leader, Ms. Theresa McCoy noted that the pre-conference work and the conference experience helped the team work through and craft strong statements about the value and benefits of Extension to the residents of Maryland in all Congressional Districts. The conversations with the Representatives and their staff assistants stimulated further ideas and action steps. In addition, the team is excited about carrying on the work started in 2009 and building upon it for 2010.

Another Maryland participant, and ESP Tau Chapter President Chuck Schuster, indicated that the experience provided a broader look at national issues as well as an opportunity to

dialogue with other Extension colleagues to see how they are addressing similar issues such as land use, wind power and zoning issues. He shared his excitement for the time that Congressman Kratovil gave his team as they discussed local issues and ways Extension programming is reaching his constituents with research-based information in his congressional district. Another Maryland team member and local constituent, Megan O'Neil-Haight has been in contact with the local office of this particular congressman as a result of this short D.C. visit. This is a relationship that is sure to pay long-term dividends.

As with many other teams to the PILD conference, this team had an exceptional professional development experience. And so, the logical question is ~ what next? For our Maryland colleagues plans are in the works for:

follow-up visits to the Maryland Representatives are planned for Fall 2009  
interested team members are going to engage in further training on building Extension's value through the University of Minnesota Extension and in public issues training, provided by facilitators of National Issues Forums.  
the team will convene again the first of November to start preparing for the next PILD conference

The investment in Public Issue Education for Extension workers is imperative if we are to continue to be competitive for federal, state and local financial resources and external support. Our experience has taught us that all politics is local, that you need to express your ideas and impacts clearly and concisely and that we need to continue to share the excellent impacts of our Extension work far and wide on a regular basis! After you read this particular article, take the next proactive steps to contact your state PILD team to ask what next and how can I be part of the plan?

## ESP Connection - The Members' Newsletter

Every year ESP members receive 5 - 6 issues of the **ESP Connection**. The **ESP Connection** is the members' newsletter and we, your National ESP Board, want to know if this--your newsletter--is serving your needs as a member and as a professional?

1. Is the **ESP Connection** informative?
2. Does the **ESP Connection** help you as a member know what is happening in your organization?
3. Does the **ESP Connection** provide you with ideas that can be used in your Chapter?
4. Does the **ESP Connection** provide you with ideas for your own professional growth?

If you answered YES--please share with your National ESP Board what you find useful.

If you answered NO--please share with your National ESP Board how we can improve this--your newsletter. What would you like to have in the newsletter that is not in it presently? How can we improve?

Please send your comments to me, Ellen Burton, National ESP President, at [eburton@illinois.edu](mailto:eburton@illinois.edu). We really will appreciate your input.

## Scholarships, Grants and Recognition

Raygene C. Paige, Scholarship, Grants and Recognition Committee Member, MS

Have you ever wondered where you can find the funds to supplement your efforts to complete a project? Have you wondered where you can share your program successes to a wide range of professionals? Have you wondered how your most valued supporters can be recognized for their efforts? Have you ever just wanted to tell the world about the good works of the Extension System and why it is still needed in today's economy? Well, no need to wonder any longer. The answer is active participation in Epsilon Sigma Phi!

Epsilon Sigma Phi is the only organization that is open to all Extension professional, regardless of subject matter areas. It includes specialists, administrators, program assistants, and retirees. Therefore scholarships, grants and recognitions are available for everyone. Providing scholarships and mini-grants to members is one of the ways to support professional development.

**Professional Mini-Grants** allow for interdisciplinary teams to showcase their program/projects and to develop models that can be replicated throughout the system.

**Scholarships** provide dollars for personal professional development such as participation in courses, conferences, seminars, and workshops.

**Friend of Extension Award** provides an opportunity for chapters to showcase the support of Extension programs in their state and also show their success in building and maintaining fiscal support.

Other scholarship and grants are also available. Check them out at <http://espnational.org>

So, there is no need to wonder where you can find this information. It is there for you as a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi. It may have been the **Best Kept Secret** in Extension but now the secret is out. So tell everyone that you know that there is money available for your program success. All you have to do is apply for it!

## Thanks for the ESP Memories...Linda Cook

In 2000, I determined to take a different path in my professional journey. After 30 years at the University of Florida, I was ready for a change of path but not ready for the rocking chair. I am grateful to my long time friend and former National ESP President, Nadine Hackler, who showed me the ad for the ESP Executive Director position. So to speak the next nine years are now history. There are so many people to thank for this incredible journey...

- Madeleine Greene, who chaired the search committee, and persisted in finding me even when I put the wrong address on the application.
- Judy and Carl Carlson who always had time for one more question or explanation.
- Nine National ESP Boards, each with their own personality, has guided the organization to a stronger place and contributed so much to my life professionally and personally.
- Over 1,000 members who have provided leadership to ESP through the National ESP Committee structure. You have challenged the organization and brought it to a more viable place as a professional organization.
- Over 2,000 individual members who have served as Chapter Presidents and on Leadership teams to keep the ESP organization strong at the local level. Without you the national organization is dead.
- Over 15,000 local ESP members who are committed to professional excellence through involvement in their professional organizations. You were my reason for turning on the computer every morning.
- My husband, Jim, for his patience when ESP took over the house and the telephone. He was my sounding board and support everyday.

You are my ESP Family! When I remind myself that I can go anywhere in this great country and know someone, it is amazing. I am very proud of you and grateful for the opportunity to know you, work with you and serve you. I feel very blessed to have spent the last nine years in your company. I am definitely the richer for the experience. Families are always connected in some way and I am hopeful that our paths will cross again in the future. I am a life member of this family and will continue to be interested in what is happening with ESP.

I wish ESP, the national leadership team and Bob Ohlensehlen all the best in the years to come. I know that you are being left in very good hands. Bob brings new expertise to the National ESP Office and is ready to take care of your needs. He will serve you well. So, as I write this last column, I say a huge "THANK YOU" for so many wonderful memories. You are each very special to me!

## Building a Strong Membership Base in ESP Chapters

Duane P. Johnson, Chair Member Recruitment and Retention

Building a strong ESP Chapter starts with building a strong and diverse membership base. As with all organizations effective committees are the major key to successful organizations. All Extension professionals are very busy but I have found they are willing to participate actively in those committees and organizations in which they can make a contribution which supports their profession values and organizational goals.

Recent conversations with chapter leadership and Member Recruitment & Retention Committee chairs across the country have identified some characteristics related to membership growth and retention that seem worthy of sharing.

- Chapter Chairs have asked (did not wait for volunteers) to serve on their committee. They have tried to have members from all disciplines, all areas of the state, both on campus and off campus representatives and at least one or two life members.
- Start the recruitment process early – do not wait for other professional organizations to start their campaign. If you have an all Extension Conference states that are successful appear to start their contact with new and current members about 2-3 months before the conference so the members can have their dues paid prior to the conference. It also helps members spread out payments.
- Sustained membership recruitment (follow-up – with individuals not renewing or not yet making a commitment) after a designated date results in payment of dues by those who were short of funds, forgot or thought they had paid appear to bring results.

- Written or e-mail contact followed by personal face-to face or telephone contact appear to result in greater positive response than just a written or email contact.
- Within the Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee it appears that having teams that represent early career, mid career and senior faculty that direct their efforts on potential members in a geographic and/or discipline area of the state and on campus appear to provide effective results. This is a committee that only one person cannot achieve maximum results. By having life members make the contact with former retirees or those planning to retire within the year can result in greater commitment and involvement.
- Utilizing the National ESP recruitment materials and developing chapter based materials are successful in communicating the purpose and benefits of ESP Membership. Focus on professional development opportunities, leadership opportunities and growth, career ladder development, scholarship opportunities, grants, and recognition appear to be most common themes.
- The last characteristic of the committee is there is a chair, chair-elect, and a large number of members that allows continuity or membership and leadership in the committee and the organization.

We hope these observations will help chapters to have a successful membership recruitment campaign this fall for 2010. Also remember enrollment by February opens more opportunities for scholarships, professional development and recognition. However, recruitment for 2010 is open until September 1, 2010. Let's make 2010 a banner year!

## Candidate for National Second Vice President

Duane P. Johnson, Past President and Chair of Nominations Committee

Delegates to the National ESP Council Meeting will have the opportunity to select a new National ESP Second Vice President who will come from the West Region during the 2009 National ESP Conference in Fargo, ND. The Second Vice President will serve on the Executive Committee of the National ESP Board and will rotate through the offices of Second Vice President, President-elect, President and Past President.

We are pleased to announce the candidacy of Justen Smith, Utah for the position of Second Vice President. Justin has been nominated by Iota Chapter of Utah. As stated in the nomination of Justin by the Iota Chapter Justen exemplifies the spirit of Extension. He is intelligent, service oriented, listens well, thinks clearly, anticipates need, and provides the type of leadership that

stimulates desire to actively be engaged in ESP. Justen is dependable, productive and relates well with others.

The Vice President of Extension in Utah, Noelle E. Cockett, stated that Justen is an exceptional Extension Agent and has the leadership and organizational skills needed for such a prestigious position.

Justen has served as Iota Chapter Policy Advisor, Western Region ESP Vice President, National ESP Global Relations Committee Chair. In addition, he has served as President of the Utah 4-H Association.



## Announcement of 2009 ESP Recognition Recipients

The ESP Chapters have voted and the 2009 ESP recognition recipients have been determined. There were many outstanding nominations representing every facet of the Extension focus and mission. Epsilon Sigma Phi congratulates the recipients on their Extension efforts and the recognition given by their chapter. The ESP Recognition recipients for 2009 are:

### National Distinguished Ruby:

James LeRoy Lindquist, KS

### Distinguished Service:

NC Dorothy Freeman, MN  
 NE Mary Jo Depp Nestlerode, PA  
 SO Mary E. "Betsy" Nayfield-Crisp, FL  
 W Janice Stimpson, ID

### Mid Career

NC Gregory Davis, OH  
 NE Robin Lynn Kuleck, PA  
 SO Cheryl Ann Newberry, TX  
 W Jim Reeb, OR

### Administrative Leadership

NC Karen Bruns, OH  
 SO Paul Warner, KY  
 W Sally Bowman, OR

### Diversity Team

NC Indiana  
 SO Texas  
 W Utah

### International Service

W Dan McGrath, OR

### Diversity Individual

NC Mary Novak, WI  
 NE Alganesh Piechocinski, MD  
 SO Celeste Garrett, GA (tie)  
 SO Dolores Sandmann, TX (tie)  
 W Joann Powell, CO

### Early Career

NC Joan M. Wimme, WI  
 NE Elise Gurgevich, PA  
 SO Jennifer Abel, VA  
 W Cole Ehmke, WY

### Team

NC Ohio  
 SO Virginia  
 W Alaska

### Continued Service

NC Renee McKee, IN  
 SO Peggy Bledsoe, GA  
 W Nellie Oehler, OR

### Visionary Leadership

NC Valynnda Slack, IN  
 NE Jennifer Thorn Bentlejewski, MD  
 SO Ed Emory, NC  
 W April Mason, CO

## 2009 National Friends of Extension

Epsilon Sigma Phi is pleased to announce the 2009 National Friends of Extension. They will be recognized during the Recognition Brunch at the 2009 National ESP Conference in Fargo on Wednesday, September 16th.

- **Wanda Barrs**, nominated by the Alpha Beta Chapter in Georgia, is chair of the Georgia Board of Education. She repeatedly finds ways to support Extension efforts. Wanda sees her role as one of "helping to connect the dots to support students, teachers and communities." She certainly does that on a daily basis as an advocate for Extension.
- **Dottie Nelson**, nominated by Alpha Gamma Chapter in Virginia, provides tireless volunteer leadership and commitment to building international understanding. Her passion for recruiting and supporting delegates and host families has enabled countless Virginia families to have positive experiences in world citizenship.
- **Chief Mark V. Trostel**, nominated by Zeta Chapter in Colorado, is an outstanding advocate for Extension locally, on a state level and nationally. His involvement at these levels brought Extension new connections and opportunities that we might not have garnered otherwise. As an ambassador for Extension, Mark has demonstrated that new partnerships are viable and sustainable with organizations that help take the University to the people.

### National ESP History Committee Wants to Visit with You

Duane P. Johnson, Past President

Judy Carlson, and Gary Moran will be attending the National ESP Conference in Fargo and would like to visit with all attendees about their observations of ESP and significant happenings at the chapter and national level. They also would like attendees to bring copies of pictures, and programs of activities from the chapter.

If you are a life member, retiree or past National Officer or Board Member please give this invitation special consideration as the early and mid history is very important to bridge the early history and today.

We are pleased three past and current Extension professionals have agreed to serve as a committee of three to update the History of ESP. ESP is blessed to have them volunteer to capture our organization's rich and significant role in the Extension System. The early history of ESP is reflected in the book "The People and the Profession" from 1927 – 1979. Let's work to help them be successful in writing our 80 plus years of history.

Your Chapter President and Extension Director have heard from this committee as part of their search for input on the history of ESP on the national and chapter level.

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### ESP Development Fund – Join Today

The ESP Endowment Campaign is helping to endow sufficient resources to sustain current scholarships, professional development opportunities, and recognition programs for Extension professionals and offers the possibility of new initiatives. Significant progress has been made on the \$500,000 Development Fund Campaign launched in 2002. With over 675 contributors, ESP is well on its way to reaching the goal.

Please consider making a contribution of any amount. If you have given before, please consider making another contribution. All campaign donors will be recognized in the listing of Epsilon Sigma Phi Contributors. Special recognition is provided for donors with an accumulated gift at the Bronze Key and higher levels.

**YOU MAY CONTRIBUTE TODAY** and help us reach our goal of \$125,000 this year by using the contribution form on the back. **Yes, I want to help ESP reach its goal of \$500,000! Please check one:**

- ? ESP Diamond Key: \$25,000 or more
- ? ESP Platinum Key: \$15,000 – 24,999
- ? ESP Gold Key: \$ 5,000 – 14,999
- ? ESP Silver Key: \$1,000 – 4,999
- ? ESP Bronze Key: \$500 – 999
- ? ESP Key: \$250 - \$499
- ? Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

? **Enclosed is my tax-deductible check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to the Epsilon Sigma Phi Development Fund.**

? **Please bill my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

? VISA                      ? MasterCard

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (MMYY) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As to Appear on Recognition)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Send this form along with payment to National ESP Office , PO Box 357340, Gainesville, FL 32635-7340.**



## Seeking ESP Regional Vice Presidents

Justen Smith, Western Region Vice President

All of our current Regional Vice Presidents will be completing their terms on the National ESP Board in September 2010. New Regional Vice President positions will be voted upon at the 2010 JCEP Regional Workshop in Nashville, Tennessee. The workshop is February 2-4, 2010. Nomination forms must be into the National ESP office by January 1, 2010 to be considered for a regional position. There are many of you that would make excellent Regional Vice Presidents and we encourage you to nominate yourself or another fellow member to become a candidate for the position.

Nationally there are four Regional Vice President positions—one for each of the four regions of the country--Western, North Central, Southern, and North Eastern. This two year term will begin at the 2010 National ESP Conference in Jackson Hole in October, 2010. Regional Vice Presidents have both regional and national board responsibilities which includes chairing a national committee.

Each regional vice president has responsibilities which include: chairing the regional ESP meeting at the JCEP Regional Workshop, acting as liaison between the National ESP Board and Chapters in the respective region, providing leadership to support and promote chapters and chapter officers in the region, and responding to concerns and questions of officers and members of chapters in the region.

Additionally the Regional Vice President has national responsibilities. National duties consist of: participating in all National ESP Board Meetings and conference calls, serving on

Board committees as requested, representing the National Epsilon Sigma Phi at the National, Regional, State and/or Chapter meetings as requested by the National ESP Board, and serving as a voting delegate at the National ESP Council Meeting. The Regional Vice President will chair one (1) of the national committees, and encourage all members of the committee to be active members through participation in the National ESP Conference, conference calls, committee work, and in carrying out the functions and responsibilities of the committee. The National ESP Committee Chairs for the 2011-2012 rotation will be: Northeast: Resource Development and Management; South: Public Issues; North Central: Global Relations; West: Scholarships, Grants and Recognition.

To nominate a fellow member or yourself for a Regional Vice President position, refer to Article VI. Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the National ESP Bylaws, found in the National ESP Handbook located on the National ESP Web site at [http:// espnational.org](http://espnational.org). The nominee must be a current Epsilon Sigma Phi member with leadership skills, and candidates must be present (in person) at the Regional ESP Meetings, held during the JCEP Regional Leadership Workshop. To review the full list of responsibilities of the Regional Vice President refer to the Epsilon Sigma Phi website or to the Bylaws in Article VI. Section 1, 2, and 3. The nomination form is located on the Epsilon Sigma Phi website.

Remember the 2010 – 2012 National ESP Regional Vice Presidents will be elected during the Regional JCEP Regional Workshop in Nashville, Tennessee February 2-4, 2010. Nominations are due to the National ESP office by January 1, 2010. There are many of you that would make excellent Regional Vice Presidents and we encourage you to nominate yourself or a fellow member to become a candidate for the position.

## State Chapters in Need of Program Ideas - 5 Strategies

Deborah Thomason, Chapter Relations Chair

Are you racking your brain about what to do at your state annual ESP meeting?

- Invite a national board member or a national committee member to visit your meeting and share information about the professional development opportunities in Epsilon Sigma Phi. National officers can visit chapters on a rotating basis and national committee members are located in 25 states and can address issues that are relevant to their committee service.
- Invite chapter members who have presented a professional development session at a national meeting of ESP or any of our brother/sister organizations to conduct a workshop at your state meeting.
- Offer a registration discount for participants who are willing to participate in a poster/exhibit session during the meeting. A great way to share ideas and program successes.
- Utilize some of the many resources available from the National Office, such as officer training modules, new ESP branding materials, and exhibits to promote ESP to new and prospective ESP members.
- Highlight your ESP Life Members and spotlight their contributions to the past success of your organization. Encourage them to provide suggestions for promoting and enhancing opportunities for more life member engagement and participation.

Need additional ideas on how to improve your chapter professional development annual meeting? Contact members of your national board. We are here to serve you!