

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

Scholars... Chosen for Leadership...United to Serve



MEDIA RELEASE

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MORTAR BOARD PRESENTS MOST IMPROVED AWARDS TO CHAPTERS AT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society recently recognized two chapters with its 2012-2013 Most Improved Chapter awards. Both the Cap & Gown chapter at Mississippi College and the Keystone chapter at the University of South Dakota merited this honor based on the caliber of improvement shown over the past academic year. These awards were given at the Society's national conference, held this summer in Atlanta.

The Most Improved Chapter award is presented annually to the chapters that have been most successful in re-establishing and re-invigorating their membership and programming. The recipients of this award are chosen for their success in the areas of new member selection, membership orientation and transition, chapter operations, service to the alma mater, and chapter visibility.

The Cap & Gown chapter at Mississippi College sought to raise its presence on campus by sponsoring several activities throughout the year, including an extremely popular Last Lecture Series. The chapter held a faculty and staff appreciation luncheon, for which they earned a Mortar Board Project Excellence Award, and hosted a breakfast for a student government workshop attended by middle and high school students. The chapter successfully streamlined its membership selection process through the use of electronic voting and oriented new members with a comprehensive transition plan. For their significant results in chapter management and meaningful service to their institution and local community, the chapter was one of 28 to earn a Golden Torch Award. Chapter president Bryce Murray accepted these awards on the chapter's behalf.

The Keystone chapter at the University of South Dakota made great strides to better its visibility among students, faculty and staff. Chapter leaders took a balanced approach to selecting new members, held a thorough orientation meeting before initiation and planned a series of meetings for newly-elected officers. Communication was greatly improved through the use of electronic and social media. The chapter also bettered its financial situation by raising enough funds to support future chapter operations. For meeting all national standards and deadlines, the chapter earned one of 46 Silver Torch Awards. Official chapter delegate Lindsay Veflin accepted these awards on the chapter's behalf.

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, more than a quarter of a million members have held the honor of being initiated at 230 chartered chapters across the nation. Mortar Board provides its members with opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include professional football player and philanthropist Drew Brees, former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and award-winning actor Marion Ross. Learn more about Mortar Board at www.mortarboard.org.

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For more information, please contact Jenni Szolwinski at jszolwinski@mortarboard.org or 513-907-7485.

Photo caption: Lindsay Veflin, delegate from the Keystone chapter at the University of South Dakota, and Bryce Murray, president of the Cap & Gown chapter at Mississippi College, accept Most Improved Chapter honors at the Mortar Board National Conference in Atlanta.