

# five star competitive edge

**As a Phi Theta Kappa member, the Five Star Competitive Edge provides you with a professional development plan to enhance skills and abilities to make you more competitive for scholarships, transferring and careers.**

**In a recent survey of human resource professionals and business leaders,<sup>1</sup> 97.7% stated that their assessment of how professional an applicant will be on the job affects their hiring decision.**

“My Phi Theta Kappa experience allowed me to build skills in leadership, teamwork, time management and communication. These are skills that were extremely valuable during pharmacy school and graduate school. I am still using these skills in starting my new career. It also allowed me to take a large part...in extracurricular activities which are always a great opportunity for growth and discovery.”



**Elimika Pfuma**  
Phi Theta Kappa Alumna  
Lone Star College - North Harris  
Houston, Texas

“The Competitive Edge program has really made me understand the importance of reflection. I had never considered how much the events I participated in and helped coordinate have helped me to improve myself, my school, and my community. Even after only fully completing one Competitive Edge level, I have learned so much about myself.”



**Dawanda Ryder**  
Phi Theta Kappa Chapter President  
Northeast Iowa Community College  
Calmar, Iowa

## HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE?

All Phi Theta Kappa members can participate. Simply log into <http://my.ptk.org> with your username and password provided via email when you first became a member. This username and password is the same one used for CollegeFish.org. Advisors can access Competitive Edge using their PAM login information.

Participation is tracked by completing activities and posting written assignments (descriptions of leadership roles/activities, awards/honors received, a resume, etc.) to an online portfolio that can then be shared with scholarship providers, college admissions officials and/or potential employers. You can also share your portfolio with chapter advisors, faculty or community members who are writing letters of recommendation on your behalf.

## ONE STAR AT A TIME...

The requirements at each level will provide you with experience based on Phi Theta Kappa's four Hallmarks. You'll have opportunities for scholarly inquiry, leadership development, service learning and collaborating with others. This self-paced plan allows you to choose how competitive you wish to be ~ from one star to five stars. While there are core requirements at each level, members may choose from a variety of electives which personalize their Competitive Edge experience based on their interests and areas for improvement.

Core requirements include completing a profile in CollegeFish.org, watching instructional videos, coordinating an Honors in Action Project and preparing a resume. Electives you can choose from include serving as an officer for Phi Theta Kappa or other organization, volunteering on campus and/or in your community, participating in cultural activities, applying for scholarships and participating in Phi Theta Kappa events.

## ONLINE COURSEWARE

A continuously-expanding library of online videos is available to participating members. Choose from a variety of topics including:

- Teambuilding
- Good Writing in a Techno World
- Navigating CollegeFish.org for a Successful Transfer
- Tips on Scholarship Applications
- Research Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Presentation Skills
- Professional Etiquette
- Articulating a Vision
- Project Management



**PHI THETA KAPPA**  
HONOR SOCIETY

<sup>1</sup> “Professionalism in the Workplace.” York College of Pennsylvania, 2009. Retrieved November 4, 2009, from <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/10/23/professionalism>.