

## **Phi Beta Kappa to establish chapter at Alfred University**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Phi Beta Kappa Society has voted to establish a chapter at Alfred University in Alfred, N.Y. The decision was made this month at the Society's 40th Triennial Council in Seattle. Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and largest academic honor society, with more than half a million members. The addition of Alfred brings the total number of chapters at U.S. colleges and universities to 270. The Society's mission is to promote the liberal arts and sciences, to recognize academic excellence, and to foster freedom of thought and expression. Phi Beta Kappa also approved the establishment of chapters at Eckerd College, the State University of New York College at Geneseo, Roanoke College, Saint Michael's College, the University of San Diego, Texas A&M University at College Station, and Valparaiso University. John Churchill, Secretary (chief executive officer) of the Society, said, "I am delighted to welcome Alfred University to Phi Beta Kappa. The chartering of this chapter is a recognition of the university's excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. Phi Beta Kappa exists to honor students who have excelled in those studies, and to advocate for the liberal arts and sciences both on campus and in the broader world. "With the establishment of this chapter, we acknowledge Alfred's accomplishments in the field of liberal education, and we look forward to a lively partnership in advancing that cause. The Phi Beta Kappa members of the Alfred community will be organizing the chapter in the weeks ahead, and we will present the charter and install the chapter in a ceremony during the 2003-2004 academic year." "We are extremely proud to have been recognized by Phi Beta Kappa as an institution of the highest academic quality. It is a fitting tribute to the achievements of our faculty and students and a source of encouragement for our alumni," said AU President Charles M. Edmondson. "Gaining a Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Alfred University affirms the essence of the University as a small, complex educational institution where high-quality liberal arts and sciences education exists side by side with equally high-quality professional programs in engineering, business, and art and design," said Dr. David Szczerbacki, provost and vice president of academic and statutory affairs at Alfred University. "The prestige of having one of fewer than 300 Phi Beta Kappa chapters in the United States recognizes that present and future AU students can be counted among the best in the country. A Phi Beta Kappa chapter on our campus validates our high-quality programs and sets a standard for excellence that can only benefit the University as we move forward," Szczerbacki said. Dr. Szczerbacki also noted that Alfred University now joins an elite group of universities that have Phi Beta Kappa chapters to attest to the quality of the liberal arts and sciences programs, as well as accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology for programs in its School of Engineering and AACSB accreditation for its undergraduate programs in the College of Business, something fewer than 30 percent of undergraduate business programs achieve. "We have the added cachet of having an internationally recognized School of Art and Design, which is also fully accredited."