

## Honors in Action Project Award (Alpha Epsilon Kappa Chapter)

### Honors In Action Project Award

Provide a brief abstract or summary of your Honors in Action project including the following components: academic research into the Honors Study Topic and analysis, leadership roles, leadership development, action, collaboration, reflection and outcomes.

Our chapter started out in August by carefully doing research within each theme. After our officer group found different subjects within the themes, we started to limit down our choices. We eventually narrowed our choices to "Nostalgia and Pathos" and "Innovation and Replication". Our officer team continued to explore these two themes and shared our ideas at the next meeting. After about a month of research, the majority choice was "Nostalgia and Pathos". In this theme, we found the topic of organ donation the most interesting. Our next task was to begin brainstorming project ideas. Through our research, we found how much organ donation impacts and saves people's lives each and every day. Our officer team then brainstormed about how we could spread the importance of organ donation to the Springfield community and our campus community. Our project was to host a speaker from the Illinois Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program to give a presentation at Lincoln Land Community College about what exactly organ donation is and the impact it has on so many people. This event, while held on campus, was open to the public. We were able to have multiple speakers come and discuss facts about organ donation, as well as share their personal stories about how organ donation has affected their lives.

What theme in the current Honors Program Guide did your chapter focus on?

Theme 8 - Nostalgia and Pathos

Why and by what process did you choose this theme?

Our officer team started by researching. We began this process as soon as school started. We wanted to have enough time to research, pick a topic, and plan an event for this project. Our first meeting involved our team going through the topics and discussing different ideas. For the next meeting, everyone was in charge of finding at least one topic to fit under each theme. We wrote each of the eight Honors in Action Themes on the board and wrote the topics underneath each one. This occurred at a chapter meeting, so all of our members had a say in the different themes and topics. We discussed each of the themes and topics and narrowed our choice down to three. After we each did more research, at the next meeting we voted on the theme "Nostalgia and Pathos". We continued to do research and chose the topic organ donation. Our advisor actually shared a story about a student she had that received a heart and is doing well today. We felt it important to spread the word about organ donation, because next year in Illinois they are changing the minimum eligibility age from 18 to 16. We reasoned that, by presenting information about organ donation, we can encourage people to talk to their children and younger siblings about the importance and benefits of organ donation.

List the 8 academic/expert sources that were most enlightening regarding multiple perspectives of the Honors Study Topic theme you selected. Briefly explain why these were the most important sources and what you learned from each of them as you researched your theme.

[More Information](#)

\* Resource 1

Moritsugu, Kenneth P. The Power of Organ Donation to Save Lives Through Transplantation. 2013.

In this article, the author explains in first person about a man who had lost both his wife and daughter. He explains both situations and explains the impact that organ donations from his wife and daughter had on many people.

Resource 2

Gregory, Eric. My son's organ donation taught me death is not the last word. 2017.

The author of this article discusses his point of view from a donor family's perspective on organ donation. Through his son's death, he saw the amount of lives saved by his son donating his organs.

Resource 3

Henderson, Macey L. and Jed Adam Gross. Living Organ Donation and Informed Consent in the United States: Strategies to Improve the Process. Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics. 2017.

The authors of this article provide explanations of the current laws regarding living organ donation and the informed consent procedures. They thoroughly explain the risks associated with living organ donation, along with the screening procedures that living donors have to go through.

Resource 4

United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS). Facts about Organ Donation. Unos.org. 2017.

This article was written by UNOS to debunk common myths about organ donation. This list provides meaningful information to anyone considering organ donation.

Resource 5

<p>Godown, Justin V. et al. Expanding the Donor Pool: Regional Variation in Pediatric Organ Donation Rates. 2016.</p> <p>This source suggests that, by encouraging organ donation in regions with overall low pediatric donor rates, the donor pool could be increased by as much as 24%.</p>
<p>Resource 6</p> <p>United States Department of Health And Human Services. Organ Procurement and Transplant Network. HRSA.gov. 2017</p> <p>This article contains a wealth of facts and statistics on the Federal Government's program to encourage organ donation, with emphasis on organ procurement shortfalls.</p>
<p>Resource 7</p> <p>who.int/topics/transplantation</p> <p>The World Health Organization provides definitions and examples of procedures done with the transplantation of organs. The information given varies from simple to complex, giving all users a wealth of knowledge and allowing us to more accurately engage our audience.</p>
<p>Resource 8</p> <p><a href="https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/307514.php">https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/307514.php</a></p> <p>The author talks about how there are many willing participants to become organ donors or even living organ donors. Throughout the article, the pros and cons of organ donation, types of donations, and a few myths about donation are discussed.</p>
<p>What conclusions did your chapter reach based on your research into the Honors Study Topic and how did these conclusions guide you to select the action part of your project?</p> <p>Based on our research, we arrived at the conclusion that organ donation is an important topic that most people overlook. With the upcoming law that will change the minimum age for organ donation in Illinois, we felt the need to inform people in the Springfield area about the importance of organ donation. Our research showed the multitude of people who benefit and the amount of lives that are saved by organ donation. We also learned from our speaker about the problem of people who sign up to be an organ donor, but upon their death, their families deny their wishes. The speaker stressed how important it is for organ donors to discuss their wishes with their families to ensure that, when they pass, they will be an organ donor.</p>
<p>Summarize your objectives for all elements of this Honors in Action project and the process by which the chapter set these objectives.</p> <p>For this project, our main objectives were increasing awareness in the community of organ donation and persuading non-organ donors to become an organ donor. To accomplish this, we decided to offer an opportunity for the community to come and listen to a speaker from the Illinois Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program, as well as individuals that have experienced or have had loved ones benefit from organ donation. Hearing from an individual who had been a organ donor recipient, along with parents whose son donated their organs to help more than 60 people, was an amazing and powerful way to see the impact of organ donation on people's lives.</p>
<p>With whom did you collaborate for this Honors in Action project?</p> <p>In order to make this project a reality, we first had to collaborate with our school. Once we decided to have people come and speak about organ donation, we had to figure out a place to host the event. We decided we would ask if we could host this event at Lincoln Land Community College and have it be open to the public. By hosting it at our school, our event occurred in a place where most people know the location. Additionally, it is a safe environment that is wheelchair accessible. We filled out paperwork at our college's Student Life Office to see if we could get the event approved. We also collaborated with the Organ/Tissue Donor Program in the Illinois Secretary of States "Life Goes On" office to schedule speakers to come and talk about organ donation. One of our members designed the poster for the event and put them around the school as one of the ways to get the word out about the event. One of our officers collaborated with Lynn Whalen, Director of Public Relations and Marketing at Lincoln Land Community College, who sent out a press release about the event.</p>
<p>Describe the leadership of chapter members that contributed to the planning, preparations, and implementation of this Honors in Action project. The exercise of leadership may come from groups/committees, officers, and non-officers. Leadership roles are not necessarily those that come with "titles."</p> <p>All of our chapter officers were leaders in this process. Each officer was responsible for researching the different themes and presenting the information they found out about the topics. At our officer meetings, each officer would present their idea, the research they found, and why they thought their topic was best. By each officer researching ideas, we got a lot done in a short amount of time. We were able to hear a variety of ideas and then narrow down our options. Non-officers were also a vital asset to our project. At a couple of our chapter meetings and Fellowship Events, our officers explained exactly what the Honors in Action project was and the themes we had to choose from. Our fellow Phi Theta Kappa chapter members then provided their input about different projects and were a part of our vote for which theme we were going to pursue. All of our officers were involved in the research aspect of the process and were a part of deciding what project we would do. After deciding our project, our officer team had to fill out paperwork and get approved to host the event at our school. We decided to provide food at our event as well to encourage people to come, so we were each in charge of getting one of the needed items (food, water, plates, and napkins) for the event. Five out of six officers were able to help set up and attend the event to show our support for this project. Since we were all encouraged to share the importance of organ donation, it was easy for everyone to volunteer and lend a hand to get everything done for the project.</p>

Describe leadership education and training activities taken to specifically help chapter members be more effective leaders for this Honors in Action project.

One event that many of our officers attended was the Phi Theta Kappa Illinois Region October Honors Institute and Leadership Conference at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois. This was a great way for students new to Phi Theta Kappa to learn the about steps it takes to make a large project like the Honors in Action project happen. Through this conference, officers were able to attend numerous educational presentations that helped them understand the leadership roles and various aspects of Phi Theta Kappa. Also, some of our officers were able to attend an officer training and leadership development conference at Parkland College in Champaign, IL. Here they discussed the aspect of being a leader and specifically talked about the Honors in Action Project. Our officers were given tips on how to successfully plan and organize the Honors in Action Project which became beneficial in this process.

Describe the service or "action" components of this Honors in Action project that were inspired by and directly connected to your Honors Study Topic research. (Action can also include promoting awareness and advocacy.)

The "action" that we performed in response to our theme "Nostalgia and Pathos" was having speakers come and talk about the facts of organ donation and share how they have been personally affected by this topic. We were also able to set up an informational table at Lincoln Land College during school hours to inform students about organ donation in case they were unable to attend the event that night. This table provided students with brochures and informational packets they could read and review to learn about exactly what organ donation is, why it is important, how to sign up, and who to call if they have any questions.

What were the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of your project, including the lessons learned by your chapter members and others?

On the night of our event, we had ten students, one community member, four speakers, and two advisers attend. Regardless of the numbers, we had an excellent presentation by our speakers. Karen Kohnke, Regional Coordinator for the Organ/Tissue Donor Program from the Illinois Secretary of State's office, presented facts and data about organ donation. Jay and Pat Landers spoke about how their son died at a young age and had requested to be an organ donor. Following their son's wishes, they donated his organs and in return he has helped over 60 different people. Our last speaker was Stacy Butler, who had suffered from many health issues and was in need of a new heart. After finding a perfect match, she was given the gift to live for years and is thankful for organ donation. Having speakers that have been personally affected by organ donation gave our audience personal stories to show the impact organ donation has on individuals. Even after our multitude of research, our officer team was able to learn new things from the speakers. This was a great way to spread the word and importance of organ donation. There were eight people who signed up to become organ donors on the day of our event. These eight new organ donors have the potential to save 64 lives and positively impact 200 lives through organ and tissue donation.

What is left undone or what opportunities remain for the future?

We think the biggest opportunity that remains for the future is educating more people about the importance of organ donation. Our project was able to help reach out to thirteen people. As more people become informed and choose to organ donors, more patients who need organ and tissues donations will have their lives saved and improved. Another opportunity is for people to voice their knowledge about organ donation and continue to spread the importance of signing up to be a donor. If we can continue to inform as many people as possible about organ donation, maybe one day everyone in need of an organ will be saved.

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