



## **Greetings from the Students**

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Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." This quote is a great way to explain J. Sargent Reynolds' community. There was always a sense of community, with everyone helping each other, from faculty to students, faculty to faculty, and students to students. Through Reynolds' Phi Theta Kappa chapters, I was lucky enough to experience Reynolds as a student and student leader.

As a student, I got help from the amazing faculty and other students if I needed help understanding an assignment. If an event was happening at Reynolds, a friend was always ready to invite others to go and have fun. This sense of community wasn't exclusive to me. Whenever I was on campus, I always saw a student helping another student, whether it was about homework, playing a game in Student Life, or overhearing a student's problem and directing them to resources that would hopefully help solve it.

For example, during the fall semester, I had trouble with an internet connection, affecting my schoolwork. Thanks to the help of Dean Davis, I got a loaner laptop and hotspot to help me during that time. Afterward, I could point others to those resources to help them.

As the 2022-23 Reynolds Phi Theta Kappa President, I worked with an incredible team of officers, other PTK members, excellent advisors, and faculty. I worked with my team and advisors to re-strengthen our community, not only within our student organization but also with Reynolds. The other officers and I chose a WIG, wildly important goal. We wanted to give back to our Reynolds community by setting up a College Project to understand better the needs of ESL and international students who attend Reynolds. As we began working on this project, we knew very little, but with the help of our members and advisors,

we contacted the proper faculty to help us obtain our goal. While the rest of the 2022-23 PTK officer team and I left our positions, I know our WIG is in the best hands, our advisors, the new officer team, and the greater Reynolds community.

At Reynolds, we met and became friends with so many people from all different backgrounds. People who want a career change and a quality, cost-effective education and parents who didn't previously have the support or opportunity to follow their passion are now taking the leap of faith to earn the degree that will assist them in their journey. Students of all ages work while taking a full-time course load. ECA and ACA students are not only going to high school but also taking college-level classes and are still highly active in and outside of school. And ESL and international students who may not be used to community college life are helping to make Reynolds the best it can be. I, and hopefully everyone here, had the opportunity to study, learn from, and get to know these fantastic people.

Even though this stage is over, it's just the beginning for us as graduates. Whether you are transferring to a 4-year institution or graduating with an associate's degree or certificate and heading straight into your passion, we still have a thrilling adventure ahead of us. Our journey is taking us past Reynolds, but I'm sure the friends you made here and the faculty who helped you along the way will continue to be there for you. Congratulations again on the next chapters of our lives.