

## **Once upon a time...Do you remember what happened when you began your journey as an Early Career Educator?**

The experiences of Early Career Educators are very different than they were even a year ago. I recently received a phone call from a collegiate from a historically black university in Ohio, who was completing her student teaching virtually. She wanted some advice and encouragement during this Fall 2020 pandemic season. She informed me about the process of doing student teaching online, completing/submitting virtual lesson plans, virtual student observations, and completing the virtual evaluation process. As a veteran teacher still in the classroom, I was able to give her some 'tried and true' techniques that educators should always keep in their hip pockets in order to keep students engaged at all times.

The SEE-Support for Early Career Educators was established as an DKG International Society Project in 2012. It shares the DKG vision which is 'Leading women educators impacting education worldwide and to strengthen our society.'

We need to support early career educators because...

- Education is a challenging career
- It's important to retain quality teachers worldwide
- It's vital to support new teachers
- We can encourage chapters/members to find a variety of creative ways to support early career educators

As DKG sisters we can support early educators in many ways. There are several ideas on the DKG International website that offer ways that we can use/involve our chapter involvement with them.

Here are just a few of the ideas to encourage new educators...

- Chapter members could mentor and support new educators in their connections with local school by using emails, phone calls, zoom calls, webinars and share advice, knowledge, and encouragement messages.
- Assist in developing a website for communicating with new teachers, using Facebook. Chapters could create and provide new teachers with a "teaching tips" booklet. As a veteran educator, you could assist new educators in advising them about different classroom strategies, as well as sharing supplies and materials with them for their specific needs.
- Create a Memory Book or Journal to share the experiences of veteran teachers with early-career educators. Create a book of "Tips for Survival" to share with first year teachers.
- Chapters can create welcome bags with DKG information brochures with contact information provided and given to new educators at the beginning of the year. For

early career educators, members/chapters can create “Survival Kits, Loot for Learning, or Pick-Me Up bags” or put together classroom supplies boxes or bags

Let's remember when we first started our journey as early educators and those individuals who inspired us and paved the way for our success. DKG sisters... it's our turn to continue to keep the torch shining brightly, to light the pathway with knowledge and wisdom for those who are beginning their teaching journey, so that they will be able to ignite the minds of future students they will educate.

Melodie A. McGee, Gamma Nu  
Educational Excellence Chairman