

# Phi Theta Kappa's White House Teleconference with Dr. Jill Biden

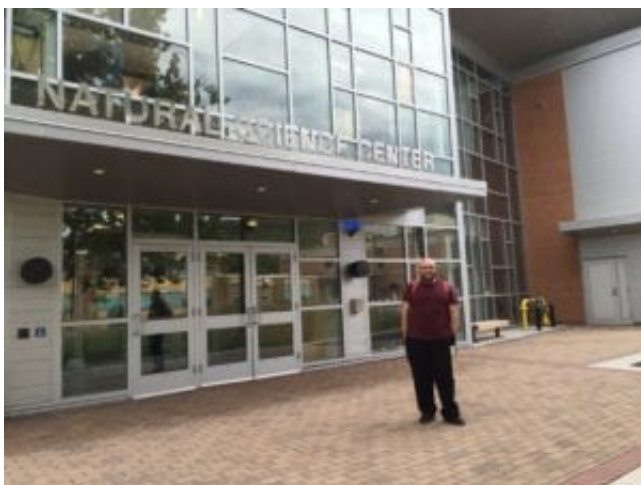
September 22, 2015

Vice President of Scholarship of Phi Theta Kappa Steven Burnette and Chapter Faculty Adviser, Professor I.J. Byrnes, participated in a White House teleconference with Dr. Jill Biden on the status and funding of community colleges. This event, held on September 8, 2015, was a Phi Theta Kappa-exclusive event to allow students and faculty to voice their opinions and concerns to Dr. Biden and the White House office charged with exploring the feasibility of tuition-free community college degrees.

"I never imagined being in teleconference with the White House, so as a student leader, I have to say it was a great opportunity," said Burnette, a STEM student who plans on pursuing a degree in chemistry at the four-year level. Burnette has already earned an associate's degree in Environmental Science, and is looking at transfer opportunities to Cornell, Binghamton University and others.

Dr. Jill Biden, chair of the new America's College Promise Advisory Board, is an advocate of tuition-free community college education. She discussed the new *Heads Up America* campaign launched by the White House to promote the value of a community college education and the great benefits community colleges provide to their regions. This campaign has the potential to not only completely fund the cost of an Associate's degree, but to effectively halve the cost of a baccalaureate degree.

One of Dr. Biden's best known quotations about the two year college experience is: "Community colleges are America's best-kept secret."



© 2022 · SUNY Broome  
The Focus: SUNY Broome's Faculty & Staff Newsletter