

National English Honor Society Continues Growth

Starting a writing center in a high school; writing letters for senior citizens; collecting books for a children's center; hosting author Chris Crutcher; traveling to London and Paris; attending plays; tutoring—these are but a few of the activities members of chapters of the National English Honor Society (NEHS) have been engaged in during the first semester of this school year.

Launched in 2004, NEHS, a program sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta, has quickly become one of the leading academic honor societies in close to 300 high schools across the country. Approximately 13,000 students are now engaged in activities and projects that are impacting, not only their lives, but the lives of those in their communities as well. The motto of the society, *Gelast Sceal Mid Are* (Old English for “duty goes with honor”), captures the significance of NEHS. Students are selected and honored for their academic accomplishments, particularly in English studies; once inducted, however, they become a part of a “society,” a community of individuals dedicated to utilizing their talents to help others.

NCTE members who teach high school are invited to consider sponsoring a NEHS chapter in their schools. The growing network of chapters is positively impacting the literacy challenges evident in many communities.

Participation also affords students and faculty many opportunities to learn together by attending plays, forming book clubs, and, in the coming year, connecting with NCTE's National Day on Writing, promoting and publishing writing. Additionally, generous scholarships are available to high school seniors interested in pursuing English studies at the university level.

I encourage anyone interested in learning more about the society to visit the website at www.nehs.us. Information about starting a chapter is available there, as well as contact information for all the chapters across the country.

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