



Multicultural sorority begins second chapter at North Carolina State U.

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(The Technician) (U-WIRE) RALEIGH, N.C. -- A new sorority on the North Carolina State University campus, Theta Nu Xi, is only the second chapter of the organization to be formed following its conception in April 1997 on the campus of University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

The sorority's main goal is to unite students with no regard to race and to push for diversity and, according to Melissa Murchison-Blake, a founding member of the UNC chapter, to celebrate all ethnicities. The organization is trying to gain recognition from NC State, but the members are in the process of trying to form a specialties group.

Theta Nu Xi cannot, however, belong to the councils which other fraternities and sororities belong to for various different reasons.

This sorority is the first multicultural one in the southeastern United States. The organization's goals can be summed up by part of its mission statement: "...to promote leadership, multiculturalism, and self-improvement through academic excellence, involvement in and service to the campus and community, as well as being living examples of sisterhood across different races, colors, religions, backgrounds and lifestyles."

But the first goal at hand for the organization is to "bridge the gap between different races on campus."

Some of the planned service projects are a mentoring program, participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program and starting a means by which local businesses could recycle used materials. Each member is also required to put in a certain number of service hours per month. Theta Nu Xi plans to recruit new members through information sessions to be held next August.

One of the founding members of the NCSU chapter, Kelly Miller, stated, "No one in Theta Nu Xi is too shy to ask someone to come check us out. We do approach people and invite them to see what we are all about. We are excited about letting everyone know who we are and what we stand for!"

Grade Point Average will be a determining factor on who is admitted into the sorority.

Membership is extended to people from all backgrounds and nationalities. The organization thrives on diversity and the opportunity to give back to the community. Other organizations that will be benefited by the organization of this group will be the Special Olympics, women's health promotion initiatives and children's hospitals.

There is a link to Theta Nu Xi's history page off of the UNC web site. This organization hopes to extend its chapters out of the Chapel Hill-Raleigh area to other campuses.

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