

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society Holds 119th Convention



Albuquerque, NM, was the destination for the Association's 119th annual Convention, held October 30 – November 1, at The Albuquerque Convention Center. Hosted by the New Mexico Beta Chapter at the University of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Alumni Chapter, the Association welcomed 423 guests to the city, including 9 Headquarters staff members and non-member guests. Over the three-day event, 409 members representing 196 collegiate chapters and 38 alumni chapters attended professional development sessions, committee &

district meetings, National Interactive Chapter Exchange (NICE) sessions, the Recruiting Fair, and practiced their skills in using Robert's Rules of Order to conduct the business of the Association.

On Thursday, **Convention Orientation**, followed by the **First Business Meeting**, facilitated the official opening of Convention and welcome. The evening banquet recognized the five Laureate award recipients: **Annaliese Braucht**, *SD A '25*; **Marjorie Cenese**, *VA G '25*; **Nicholas Divilbiss**, *KS G '25*; **Hunter Elwell**, *OR A '25*; and **Matteo Sollecito**, *IN A '25*.

On Friday, members participated in NICE, attended professional development sessions, and celebrated Halloween through door decorating and a costume contest. **Friday's Chapter Recognition Luncheon** lauded the accomplishments of 19 chapters who were awarded a **Chapter Excellence Award**. This award goes beyond required reporting and utilizes chapter performance in the areas of Initiation, Membership, Operations, Finances, Convention, Programs, and Advisors. The winners of the 2024-25 Chapter Excellence Award include: **AL Alpha**, **AL Epsilon**, **AZ Beta**, **AZ Delta**, **CO Beta**, **FL Alpha**, **FL Iota**, **IL Alpha**, **KS Gamma**, **MI Gamma**, **MO Alpha**, **NJ Alpha**, **NJ Beta**, **OH Alpha**, **OR Alpha**, **TN Alpha**, **TX Delta**, **VT Alpha**, and **VA Alpha**. Chapters with distinction, scoring 100 percent or more, are in **bold**.

Friday's Alumni Recognition Banquet recognized the **2025 TBP–McDonald Mentor Award** recipient, **Smitha M. N. Rao**, Ph.D., *MI B '04*, who received \$1,000, a bronze engraved medallion, and a replica lapel pin. **The 2025 Outstanding Advisor**, **Cassandra Birrenkott**, Ph.D., *SD A '07*, received \$1,000 and \$1,000 for the college's discretionary fund. Tau Beta Pi was honored to recognize the **2025 Distinguished Alumni** awardees: **Daryl R. Armentrout**, Ph.D., P.E., *TN A '65*; **Carl R. Ice**, *KS G '79*; and **Cara A. Cowan Watts**, Ph.D., *OK G '97*. Each received an engraved plaque and a \$2,000 scholarship in each Distinguished Alumni's name was awarded to a TBP student for the 2025-26 academic year.

The Chapter Project Awards were announced at **Saturday's Chapter Recognition Luncheon** and are given to chapters that accomplish outstanding project success. Chapters that have won over three consecutive years will receive a \$500 scholarship and are in **bold**. This year's winners are: **AL Epsilon**, **CA Epsilon**, **CA Delta**, **FL Alpha**, **FL Delta**, **IL Alpha**, **IN Alpha**, **KS Gamma**, **MD Beta**, **MI Epsilon**, **MI Iota**, **NM Beta**, **NM Gamma**, **OH Iota**, **SC Beta**, **TN Alpha**, **TX Alpha**, and **VT Alpha**.

Eleven new members were initiated into the New Mexico Beta Chapter during **Saturday's Model Initiation**. Of those initiates, eight were undergrad/graduate students, and three were eminent engineers.

Two petitioning universities were granted charters to establish a Tau Beta Pi collegiate chapter: Campbell University and Wentworth Institute of Technology. The new chapters will be installed in Spring of 2026.

Saturday's Chapter Awards Banquet presented the Alumni Chapter Awards, led by the Director of Alumni Affairs, Sean Aiton, *NC A '22*. The **Collaboration with Collegiate Chapters** award was won by the Sacramento Valley Alumni Chapter with honorable mentions going to the Southeastern Michigan Alumni Chapter and the Ohio North Coast Alumni Chapter. The **Engagement with their Community** award was presented to the Mid-South Alumni Chapter. The **Most Improved Alumni Chapter** was the West Michigan Alumni Chapter. Finally, the **Most Outstanding Alumni Chapter** was the Southeastern Michigan Alumni Chapter.

Saturday evening involved the announcement of the prestigious Tau Beta Pi Chapter Awards. **R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award** for **2024-25**, the highest honor for a collegiate chapter in Tau Beta Pi, went to FL Alpha at the University of Florida. Honorable mentions were awarded to IL Alpha and KS Gamma. The **R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter** for **2024-25** was presented to TX Theta at the University of Texas at El Paso, with FL Beta and MO Alpha as honorable mentions. The **J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award** for **2024-25** went to MN Alpha at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. Honorable mentions were presented to NY Upsilon and TX Delta.

The **2026 New Engineering Solutions for Tomorrow (NEST) Challenge Hatch Award** was presented by NEST Program Director Chris Potts, *CA U '16*, to the Texas Alpha Chapter at the University of Texas at Austin. The team's project tackles global water insecurity, demonstrating exceptional collaboration and strategic foresight. The next Competition will take place at the 2026 Convention and invites teams to explore "Mitigating the Impact of Natural Disasters."

Tau Beta Pi will hold the 120th Convention in Tucson, Arizona.