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Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society Holds 120th Convention



Tucson, AZ, was the destination for the Association's 120th annual Convention, held October 8 – October 10, at The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa. Hosted by the Arizona Alpha Chapter at the University of Arizona and Tucson Alumni Chapter, the Association welcomed 437 guests to the city, including 13 Headquarters staff members and 22 non-member guests. Over the three-day event, 402 members representing 210 collegiate chapters and 30 alumni chapters attended professional development sessions, committee & district meetings, National Interactive Chapter Exchange (NICE) sessions, the Recruiting Fair, and practiced using Robert's Rules of Order to conduct the business of the Association.

On Thursday, attendees enjoyed the start of Convention by convening with nearby chapters in District Meetings. Everyone joined together for **Convention Orientation**, followed by the **First Business Meeting**, which facilitated the official opening of Convention and welcome. The President's Report on behalf of the Executive Council was presented by President Thomas A. Pinkham IV, *MA E '88*, and reports of the Directors of the Association were heard. The day's activities included committee meetings and Professional Development and Engineering Future Leaders training. Our annual **Recruiting Fair** provided networking opportunities with 28 corporate and graduate school recruiters throughout the day. The evening banquet included a welcome message from Convention Arrangements Chair, Cannon J. Richards, *AZ A '28*, and recognized the four Laureate award recipients: **Karthik Boregowda**, *FL A '23*, **Tova E. Fink**, *NY B '26*, **Sadie S. Meyer**, *NY B '26*, and **Hu "Oliver" Zhao**, *AL A '21*.

On Friday, members participated in NICE as well as additional Professional Development and Engineering Future Leaders sessions. **Friday's Chapter Recognition Luncheon** lauded the accomplishments of 31 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 2025-26 Chapter Excellence Award include: **Alabama Alpha**, **Alabama Epsilon**, Arizona Alpha, Arizona Delta, California Epsilon, **California Upsilon**, California Psi, **Colorado Beta**, Florida Alpha, Florida Iota, **Georgia Delta**, **Illinois Alpha**, Illinois Beta, **Iowa Alpha**, **Kansas Gamma**, Michigan Alpha, **Michigan Gamma**, **Michigan Iota**, Michigan Kappa, **Michigan Theta**, New Mexico Beta, **New York Xi**, North Carolina Alpha, North Dakota Alpha, Ohio Alpha, **Ohio Gamma**, Ohio Kappa, Ohio Theta, Pennsylvania Zeta, **Puerto Rico Alpha**, **Tennessee Zeta**, **Texas Alpha**, and Virginia Alpha. Chapters with distinction, scoring 100 percent or more, are in **bold**.

Friday's Alumni Recognition Banquet recognized the **2026 TBP—McDonald Mentor Award** recipient, **Matthew Priddy**, Ph.D., *MS A '08*, who received $1,000, a bronze engraved medallion, and a replica lapel pin. Another $1,000 will be presented to the nominating chapter, Mississippi Alpha at Mississippi State University. The **2026 Outstanding Advisor**,

Joel Ness, *IA A '92*, received $1,000 and $1,000 for the University of North Dakota engineering discretionary fund. Tau Beta Pi was honored to recognize the **2026 Asad M. Madni Distinguished Alumnus**, **Gerald D. Griffin**, *IN A '56*, who received an engraved plaque. A $2,000 scholarship in his name was awarded to a TBP student for the 2026-27 academic year. Councilor David J. Cowan Jr., P.E., *FL E '14*, led the recognition of TBP Advisors, and Councilor Henry H. Houh, Ph.D., *MA B '89*, presented service certificates to 4 volunteers.

The **Chapter Project Awards** were announced at **Saturday's Chapter Recognition Banquet** 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: Alabama Alpha, Alabama Delta, **Alabama Epsilon**, Alaska Alpha, Colorado Beta, **Florida Alpha**, Florida Delta, **Illinois Alpha**, Iowa Alpha, **Kansas Gamma**, **Maryland Beta**, **Michigan Epsilon**, Michigan Gamma, Michigan Iota, Michigan Kappa, Michigan Theta, New Mexico Beta, North Carolina Theta, Oklahoma Theta, Oklahoma Alpha, Oklahoma Gamma, Puerto Rico Alpha, Tennessee Alpha, **Texas Alpha**, Vermont Alpha.

Weber State University's petition was approved to establish the Utah Delta Chapter. The new Tau Beta Pi collegiate chapter will be installed in February of 2027.

15 new undergraduate student members were initiated into the Arizona Alpha Chapter during **Saturday's Model Initiation**. Two additional undergraduate students from Weber State University's petitioning chapter, Utah Delta, also participated, bringing the ceremony total to 17 undergraduate students.

The **Chapter Awards Banquet** on Saturday evening, sponsored by Harry W. Lange, *MI Z '75*, brought the Convention to a close. The Director of Alumni Affairs, Sean Aiton, *NC A '22*, presented the Alumni Chapter Awards. The **Collaboration with Collegiate Chapters** award was won by Ohio's North Coast Alumni Chapter. The **Engagement with their Community** award was presented to the Chicago Alumni Chapter. The **Most Improved Alumni Chapter** was the Pikes Peak Alumni Chapter. Finally, the **Most Outstanding Alumni Chapter** was the Chicago Alumni Chapter with an honorable mention going to the Southeastern Michigan Alumni Chapter.

The prestigious Tau Beta Pi Chapter Awards were also announced. **R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award** for **2025-26**, the highest honor for a collegiate chapter in Tau Beta Pi, went to Alabama Epsilon at the University of South Alabama. An honorable mention was awarded to Florida Alpha. The **R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter** for **2025-26** was presented to Michigan Theta at Oakland University, with Oklahoma Gamma as an honorable mention. The **J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award** for **2025-26** went to Tennessee Zeta at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Honorable mentions were presented to Minnesota Alpha and Oregon Alpha.

The **2027 New Engineering Solutions for Tomorrow (NEST) Challenge Hatch Award** was presented by NEST Committee Chair, Aryan Vaidya, *VA G '27*, to Texas Alpha at the University of Texas at Austin. The team's project, "Field-Deployable Potassium Test for Crush Syndrome," was presented by Titus Loftin, *TX A '27*. The Resolutions Committee took no action on the NEST program, so it will not be renewed next year.

Tau Beta Pi will hold the 121st Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.