

Alpha Iota State Project:

(Module)



10 Interesting Women

International Educational Excellence Committee Educational Excellence Committee (EEC) Goals

1. Promote the Schools for Africa Project
2. Support Early-Career Educators*
3. Encourage programs that

- Increase members' personal and professional pride
- Focus on educational excellence
- Promote the DKG/UN relationship
- Increase members' global awareness
- Impact educational law and policy

*Examples of Early-Career Educator Support Resources

1. **THAT--Teachers Helping Another Teacher** project (from California State Organization)
2. **Dinner and a Movie** (from Omega Chapter, Oregon)
(Read details of these programs at: www.dkg.org Click on the apple icon at the bottom of the page: Supporting Early-Career Educators Program.)
3. Alpha Iota State Project: *10 Interesting Women*

How do we proceed from here?

The Model: 10 Interesting Women

- Five DKG chapter members join together to invite five currently working teachers and/or administrators to meet after work for a light dinner.
- The goal is to focus on women who are young in the profession, but start with the ones you know.

Invitation

- Each participating DKG member makes a personal contact to someone *she knows* who is currently teaching or working in education, and invites her to the gathering.
- When she has a commitment, she follows up with an e-mail (or letter) personally inviting her to the group. (A sample letter is attached.)
- Recommended opening line: **“Some other professional educators and I would like to get 10 interesting women together to share about what is happening in education today. I think you are an interesting woman and I would like to ask you to participate.”**
- DKG member provides the table leader with the invitee’s name, e-mail, phone number and address.
- Table leader contacts all the 10 interesting women with date, time, place and directions of first meeting by e-mail or letter.

What Happens?

- Have no agenda—share about educational experiences.
- Keep it positive – celebrate the good.
- Two-way learning will occur.
- DKG members will learn from working professionals and also find ways they can be supportive of them.
- Excellent connections will be made.

Structure

- Collaborative Connections Chair (or other designee) coordinates the groups for the chapter.
- Each table grouping needs a leader to make the reservation and notify everyone after acceptance of invitation.
- Use a round table if possible and have each woman pay for her own dinner. (This keeps it an equal relationship.)
- Set the date for the next meeting before leaving the gathering.

Keep Relationship Equal

- Remember the goal: Support Early-Career Educators.
- Do not discuss DKG or DKG business at the meetings.
- Each member of the group should introduce herself.
- Use “I” and not “we”.
- “Reply to all” on all e-mail communication.

Next Steps

- The groups meet two to four times a year.
- Continue to divide and add more DKG members and other working professionals.
- Divide the original table group into two sets.
- Ask your invitees to encourage new professionals to participate to get 10 in each group. *

*This may be the best way to find new teachers.

Possibilities

- Members who have worked or are working in a particular school may find it easy to get a group of working professionals from there.
- Try to involve many DKG members in several groups over two or more years. Provide orientation to each new member joining or starting a new group. (Use the module/Powerpoint.)

- Devise a unique plan that works for your particular chapter: a breakfast, a meeting after school with snacks, smaller chapters starting with fewer numbers or any other form you may create. (Some have said they would like to invite men teachers/administrators who are new in the profession.)
- Chapters from your coordinating council may work together on this project; some members from each chapter. Support each other.

Connections Made

- DKG members may help with Grandparents' Day, Gingerbread Houses, Math Games, students, school garden, bulletin boards, a photography/writing project, and etc.
- Mentoring becomes a possibility.

Possible New Members

- New DKG members may eventually come from the connection, but it is wise not to promote the gathering as a DKG activity with the working professionals invited.
- They may think you are out to get them into the organization and that will destroy the equality of the gathering.
- If a member of the group expresses a concern being addressed by a speaker at your DKG meeting, that professional may be invited to the DKG meeting.

Report to the State

- A certificate or award will be presented to the chapters who have 10 Interesting Women groups.
- Report your successes. Chapter president or an Educational Excellence Committee member reports annually to Alpha Iota State.
- Report form will be sent to chapter presidents.
- Having a **10 Interesting Women Group** will count on **The Award of the Rose**.

CELEBRATE!

- *10 Interesting Women*
- **Alpha Iota State Project**

**PowerPoint Presentation and Module Created by Mu Chapter Members and adopted
and revised by Alpha Iota State.**

10 Interesting Women Committee

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addendum

SAMPLE LETTER

For Invitation: 10 Interesting Women Group

Dear Susie,

Some other professional educators and I would like to get 10 interesting women together to share about what is happening in education today. I think you are an interesting woman and I would like to ask you to participate. All of us are or have been involved in education in one way or another and think it would be stimulating to meet for dinner and have conversations with no agenda. The occasion should provide an interesting and energizing exchange of ideas.

Patricia Hatch, a former Kearsley teacher, has reserved a round table for us at Empress of China Restaurant, 2320 Dort Hwy, Flint on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 6 P.M. We will eat and chat for about an hour and a half.

Will you join us? I respect your professionalism and would enjoy your company.

Sincerely,