Pi Gamma Chapter Background
Pi Gamma was officially chartered in 1998 and was presented with its first Chapter Key Award in 2001. The chapter has continued to receive the Chapter Key Award every biennium. Recently, Pi Gamma was praised for their methods used to connect with chapter members, collaborate with other organizations, and provide leadership opportunities for chapter members.

Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and Pi Gamma have been long-standing supporters of Sigma Theta Tau International. For over a decade, the college and chapter have consistently sponsored the Grand Exhibit Hall and dessert reception at the Biennial Convention. Pi Gamma fosters leadership development of new members by sending one or more leadership interns to Biennial Convention. Pi Gamma members support global healthcare initiatives through involvement with collecting personal care items to support Mercer on Mission. Both faculty and student members have provided hands-on culturally appropriate patient care in countries such as Honduras and Cambodia. Our members live out the STTI mission daily, to advance world health and celebrate nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

2015 Chapter Key Award Criteria
• Support the purposes of STTI
• Observe provisions of the bylaws and comply with policies and regulations
• Participate in biennial convention House of Delegates (including electronic)
• Select and induct eligible members at least once annually
• Meet all financial obligations
• File reports (Annual Report, Bylaws Submission, Verification of Fees)
• Hold at least two chapter programs per year
• Maintain current officer and committee chair report
• Ensure officer positions are filled by active members
• Hold annual elections
• Ensure chapter officer terms are staggered
• Chapter must qualify for 43 out of 74 possible points

Strategic Planning
Do You Have a Plan?
Leadership Development * Membership Engagement * Chapter Operations * Recruitment & Publicity

>>> A goal without a plan is just a wish <<<
Align your strategic plan with the Chapter Key Award criteria. As the award criteria changes Pi Gamma adjusts its plan to ensure the chapter is meeting the requirements as best possible to receive maximum points. Start small. Review the categories and activities listed in the application. What does your chapter do well? How can you improve upon each area to maximize points?

Is the Plan Working?
While a set number of points are necessary to receive the Chapter Key Award, we strive to meet the goals of our chapter and the needs of our members. Is your plan realistic based on time commitments, financial resources, and member involvement?

Are Members Involved?
Even the perfect plan is destined to fail if member buy-in is absent. Do you include members in strategic planning? Do you ask for member feedback?

• Introduce the strategic plan at member meetings
• Ask members to serve on a strategic planning committee
• Survey both active and inactive members (online surveys work great)
• What activities would you like to participate in as a member of _____?
• Identify community service/outreach activities you would like to be involved in as a member of _____.
• What types of professional activities would you like to see _____ offer to members?
• I would be more involved with _____ if:

Do You Evaluate and Improve the Plan?
When was the last time your chapter reviewed the strategic plan? Does the plan meet the current goals of the chapter? Brush the dust off your plan! Evaluate your plan a minimum of once a year. Assign sections of the plan for members to evaluate and re-align. When was the last time your chapter reviewed the strategic plan? Does the plan meet the current goals of the chapter? Brush the dust off your plan! Evaluate the plan and the requirements as best possible to receive maximum points. Start small. Review the categories and activities listed in the application. What does your chapter do well? How can you improve upon each area to maximize points?

Tips for Success
• Assemble a team of invested members
• Stay organized, gather supporting information as activities unfold
• Always err on the side of too much information. More detail is better!
• Utilize the “All Chapter Officers” discussion group on The Circle
• Remember, it is not about the “points” but about meeting your chapter’s goals

Award Submission
Due Date: 15 July 2015
• Upload application Excel document using online submittal system
• Judges (comprised of Regional Coordinators and regional awards representatives) will officially score the applications
• Chapters will be notified of results starting 17 September 2015
• Chapter Key Awards presented at the 2015 Biennial Convention

Sample Activity
Chapter conducts efforts to recruit potential student candidates
• Provide information about STTI and Pi Gamma at new student orientation
• Set up booth and raffle a stethoscope
• Pass out personalized Pi Gamma pencils
• Attend class session that discusses professional organizations in junior year
• Leadership interns participate in this activity
• Encourage student participation in community service activity with chapter
• Partner with student nursing association in service activities
• Provide lunch last semester of the junior year during finals week
• Invite students to chapter member meetings

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