

1. Briefly describe your College Project and who from the chapter and the college administration was involved in determining it?19

College Project committee members met with Vice President (VP) of Student Affairs, Dr. Batten, to discuss ideas supporting part of Horry-Georgetown Technical College's (HGTC) mission statement: "to provide a student centered environment and inspire lifelong learning." We visited the Chicago Cultural Center during Honors Institute and were amazed by Eugene Eda's painted doors exhibit for Malcolm X College. Upon our return, we noticed our campuses lacked artistic appeal. Our project, Visually Improving Bare Environments (VIBE), offered a way for Alpha Nu Sigma to enhance our plain white hallways and classroom walls. Dr. Batten introduced us to our Procurement Manager, who is in charge of college aesthetics, to further brainstorm ideas. We met with administrators over several months to plan our project.

2. Summarize your objectives for the College Project and the process by which the chapter and college administration set these objectives.20

Prior to meeting with Dr. Batten, committee members brainstormed ideas such as adding outdoor study areas, events, and aesthetic improvements. Dr. Batten's interest in adding art and strengthening student engagement on each campus helped us narrow our scope. Committee members met with our Procurement Manager to discuss our objectives:

- Conduct a survey to assess student opinion on the visual appeal of HGTC classrooms and hallway walls
- Hold a contest for students to submit artwork

Members read a news article about the Kindness Rocks Project and its goal, "One message at just the right moment can change someone's entire day" inspired us. We discussed ways to promote a positive student environment and beautify our campuses and decided to add a third objective:

- Engage students by creating rock gardens on each campus.

3. Describe the planning process and strategies developed to complete the College Project.12

Our process began when we attended a College Project workshop at International Honors Institute, where we learned how to plan a project and the importance of working with administrators. At the Carolinas Region Leadership Conference, we attended the "Be a College Project Judge" workshop and participated in creating mock College Projects. These leadership development activities helped us understand the process of planning a project beneficial to HGTC.

Members worked closely with our Procurement Manager throughout the project. We met weekly to define our objectives, then biweekly to discuss the project and assign tasks. Our team also met with HGTC's Finance VP who eagerly discussed locations to hang the artwork. He suggested we display the entries in HGTC's art gallery for judging, so we contacted our VP of Library Resources. Unfortunately, it was already booked. Team members created a four-question survey to assess student opinion on the visual appeal of classrooms and hallways. A Sociology professor

taught us how to write unbiased survey questions. VIBE committee members distributed surveys in classes on each campus, during welcome week celebrations and online. To include our Early College High School students, we contacted their principal and media specialist for approval to distribute surveys online. Our Procurement Manager explained HGTC guidelines about appropriate content for art displays (no nudity, vulgarity, copyrighted material, etc.). She enthusiastically supported our project and offered to provide a conference room for judging, first place awards, and to frame the artwork. VIBE members brainstormed theme categories for artwork and collaborated with our Procurement Manager to finalize the project, including the type of artwork, rules, prizes, and judges. We contacted our local art museum and met with its Education Coordinator to learn how art is judged. She reviewed our draft flyer, analyzed our rubric, and suggested changes, which we incorporated. The committee determined HGTC libraries would be the best location for students to drop off entries, so members contacted librarians and asked them to collect entries for judging. We created an entry form with contest rules and a flyer outlining six themes such as nature, destinations, and abstract. Our Print Shop Manager reviewed our flyer to ensure compliance with HGTC branding, and after several revisions, she approved it. Members hung flyers on all campuses, placed entry forms in student lounges, and distributed them to classmates. Our Social Media Specialist posted our flyer on HGTC social media outlets. Our team created a rubric for judges to score the art submissions. We invited fifteen administrators, students, faculty, and staff to be judges and nine agreed, including HGTC President Fore and Dr. Batten.

Our final objective was to engage students by creating rock gardens on each campus. A professional artist advised us on the best paint to use outdoors. We contacted local businesses to obtain donations of paint, brushes, sharpies, and rocks. Team members hosted paint parties during chapter meetings and student activity hours. A member sketched our design for 3x3 rock gardens. We were disappointed when the Superintendent of Grounds changed our desired location for one garden. The new 5x5 space required us to purchase additional rocks to fill it. Our Building Grounds Supervisor helped us prepare sites for the gardens.

4. What were the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of your project, including the lessons learned by your chapter members and others?21

Our project beautified our campuses while promoting student engagement and allowing students to leave their legacy. Students completed 187 surveys, and seventy-one percent felt HGTC lacks visual appeal. We received five art entries and because all submissions were entered under the abstract theme, one fifty-dollar gift card was awarded to the first place winner. President Fore said, "I am very pleased with your project because I believe HGTC students have so many talents." We were disappointed when we did not receive as many submissions as we expected. Upon reflection, we realized better advertising and extended time for entries would have increased participation rates.

Members contacted several businesses requesting donations of supplies and various size rocks. Target donated a fifty-dollar gift card for supplies, and Lowes donated small rocks, paint, and timber edging. We decided to use chapter funds to obtain larger rocks. During six paint parties, students decorated over 200 rocks and were excited to express their creativity. Their enthusiasm led to yellow paint being spilled on brown carpet which required us to frantically search for

carpet cleaner. Fortunately, we found cleaning supplies in the janitor's closet. It took us thirty minutes to remove the paint stains. Our five-foot square garden is anchored by two large rocks that say Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Nu Sigma and is filled with multicolored rocks with inspiring messages such as, "Stay Strong," "Proud to be HGTC," and "Love Yourself." We were thrilled to see that a student posted a picture on our local Horry County Rocks Facebook page and commented, "Super awesome made me smile this morning." Several students also made positive responses to this post. We clearly promoted a positive student environment and beautified our campuses through this project.

We grew as scholar-servant-leaders throughout the process of VIBE. At first we felt intimidated working with administrators and business professionals, but we now feel confident collaborating and communicating with them. Students indicated in their survey responses they would like to have more opportunities to get involved on campus, and we will share this with administrators. We created fellowship opportunities through the paint parties which strengthened our relationship with chapter members.

5. What is left undone or what opportunities remain for the future?12(86)

Members are continuing to work with our Procurement Manager to have the artwork framed for display on campus. We will hold another art contest in the future and install rock gardens on two campuses. Due to scheduling conflicts, we were unable to provide a project summary to Dr. Batten before the end of the semester; however, we will meet with her in January.