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## MEMBER INDUCTION CEREMONY

**FACULTY WELCOME:** Faculty Advisor, faculty member, or other designee to provide a general welcome.

### **WELCOME & RECOGNITION OF OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** I would like to thank all of the new inductees and their friends and family for attending today. I would like to begin the ceremony by introducing to you the <date> officers of the <Chapter Name> Chapter of Delta Kappa.

Executive Vice President:

Membership Vice President:

Program Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Historian:

And I am \_\_\_\_\_, the current President of Delta Kappa.

In addition to <faculty advisor who conducted the welcome>, the other faculty members (and staff) who are with us today are, \_\_\_\_\_. Our guest speaker today is \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_.

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### **HISTORICAL AND SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE OF DELTA KAPPA:**

**Chapter Advisor:** Delta Kappa, the International Marriage and Family Therapy Honor Society is an academic and professional institution to provide marriage and family therapy professionals a face-to-face, ongoing scholarly forum for the



exchange of ideas related to the development of research, theory, and clinical practice

Delta Kappa has symbolic and historical significance within the field of marriage and family therapy. DELTA represents the triangle, a core element of relational life within marriage and family therapy theory. The points of the triangle represent the three corners of the therapeutic relationship, comprised of the client family in the room, the therapists and therapeutic treatment team, and the external influences intertwined between the lives of client families and professionals. KAPPA represents the universal symbol of knowledge. The shape of the KAPPA has a single long vertical line representing the intervention that occurs in the therapeutic process, and two line meeting at the mid-point of the vertical line creating a point of confluence with the therapist and the client system joining together for change. Together, the lines of this symbol represent the collaborative co-evolving nature of relationships with clients within the therapeutic system.

The Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa was installed on December 4, 1998 at The University of Louisiana at Monroe. This installation was the first time in the history of the marriage and family therapy field that a scholarly honor society had been established. The founder of Delta Kappa and the faculty sponsor of the Alpha Chapter was Dr. Charles Cole, the Spyker Endowed Chair in Marriage and Family Therapy at The University of Louisiana at Monroe from 1997 to 2003. Dr. Cole provided the primary vision and organizing force for the formation of Delta Kappa. <Insert chapter's history here – have included the Beta & Gamma

Chapters as examples that can be left in and your chapter history added, or deleted in place of your chapter's history - In October of 2005, Friends University became the first expansion effort in Delta Kappa's history. At the Annual Meeting for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, held in Kansas City, Friends University established the Beta and Gamma chapters, inducting almost 80 members into the honor society.>



Today's ceremony represents the <number> <annual/spring/fall/etc> induction ceremony for the <Chapter Name> Chapter.

Through the innovative and ongoing work of the <University Name> chapter, activity in the Honor Society has three primary aims:

- Emerging leaders in the field of marriage and family therapy are to be mentored in assuming the mantle of leadership in the marriage and family profession
- Ongoing scholarly forums are to be organized that present opportunities to engage and apply innovative research and theory on marriage and family therapy clinical practice
- Achievements of marriage and family therapy clinicians and scholars are to be recognized in ways that promote the visibility and dissemination of the profession's contributions within the broader service provider sector.

Through these aims, the stature of the marriage and family therapy profession is to be enhanced each time that the torch of leadership is carried high by the current generation of marriage and family therapy scholars and practitioners in Delta Kappa, the International Marriage and Family Honor Society.

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### **SCHOLARSHIP AND PROFESIONALISM: Program Vice President**

One of the chief purposes of Delta Kappa, as the International Marriage and Family Therapy Honor Society, is to promote scholarship and to provide forums for the exchange of the scholarly debate on the changes in the field, emerging issues that shape innovative research, and clinical practice. As member of the <Chapter Name> Chapter of Delta Kappa here at <University Name>, we are striving to



promote projects that deal with cutting edge issues in the field. We hope to use our chapter for evolving research and practice ideas that we as students are engaged in throughout the course of our training here at <University Name>. Many graduates will be involved in vast areas of the mental health arena and will be influential in AAMFT, <DIVISION Name>, and local and national legislative panels. In addition, the MFT faculty at <University Name> is engaged in bridging the connection between student and professional. We will invite them to address us on occasion to both inform us on the status of their work and to seek ways to become involved with them in the process of mutual discovery of innovative ideas that shape our future as marriage and family therapists.

*<Use this as a segue way into the guest speaker for the ceremony, who has been invited to address the current chapter>*

**SCHOLARLY ADDRESS: Program VP (preferred for continuity) or other designee to introduce the speaker.**

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### **SETTING THE STANDARD: MEMBERSHIP in Delta Kappa: Executive Vice-President**

Delta Kappa, as an international Marriage and Family Therapy Honor Society, has high standards. To be recognized as a leader, scholar and standard-bearer for the profession require excellence in training. To be eligible for membership in Delta Kappa, you must be an honor student or graduate of a marriage and family therapy program that is accredited by the COAMFTE, earning a grade point average of at least 3.75. In addition to your scholarly record, you are required to demonstrate a high degree of professionalism by holding membership in AAMFT. The standards are high and demonstrate that you are a



leader, scholar and dedicated professional who has the potential to move the profession of marriage and family therapy to an even increasingly higher standard of excellence in providing the best quality care for clients seeking our services. It is with great honor that you will be inducted into the <Chapter Name > Chapter of Delta Kappa.

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### **MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE**

**President:** At this time, I would like to ask that everyone being inducted into Delta Kappa today, please stand.

**President:** All of you are being inducted in Delta Kappa, the International Marriage and Family Therapy Honor Society, because you have achieved distinction in your scholarly achievements in Marriage and Family Therapy. As a member of Delta Kappa, do you pledge to continue on a path of scholarly achievement, integrity, and excellence as a clinician and in the pursuit of excellence throughout your career as a Marriage and Family Therapist? If so, please answer, “I will.”

*(Inductees answer: “I will”)*

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### **SHARING THE LIGHT/PASSING THE LIGHT CEREMONY**

**President:** Inductees, please remain standing. I would now like to invite the current Executive Committee of Delta Kappa to get the candle from under your chair and take your place on the Delta. *(pause, wait for the officers to begin moving to their DESIGNATED spots on the Delta)*



(IF Applicable:)

--I would like to invite our special guests and alumni of Delta Kappa to join us on the Delta with your candles.

-- I would like to then invite all inducted members and the new inductees to bring your candle and find a place on the Delta.

***President lights his/her candle from the lighted candle on the front table. Does not light anyone else's candle until everyone is fully situated.***

*SEE DIAGRAM: Form the Delta with the 3 points of the Delta anchored by the chapter advisor and all of the installed officers. President at the top of the triangle; Executive VP in Right Corner; Program VP in Left Corner of the triangle; Treasurer will stand to the right side of the President, Secretary to the left side. The faculty advisor will be in the middle of the line connecting the Membership and Executive VPs, the Membership VP will be across from the faculty advisor positioned on the line between the President and Program VP. The Historian will be the middle of the line between the Executive VP and Program VP).*

*Once everyone is situated on the Delta, the president then begins lighting the candles of those standing to either side. Moving in opposite directions, each person lights the candle of the person next to them. While the candle lighting is occurring, the President speaks:*

**President:** With the passing of the light from one member to the next we are symbolically imparting the shared knowledge that we have gained and renewing our commitment to continually seek to grow and develop as professional marriage and family therapists. We are pledging to develop greater understanding and appreciation of marriage and family therapy theory, research and practice and to contribute to the body of knowledge of our profession throughout our careers as marriage and family therapists. With this lighting of the candle we are sharing our knowledge and building the legacy for our profession that will be passed on to future generations.

*[Be sure all candles have been lit before beginning next part]*

**Membership VP:** As you see the light in the candle you are holding, think of the flame you hold as a symbol of the commitment you are making in becoming a marriage and family therapist.

*[allow for a 5-10 second pause between each speaker; don't rush – allow reflection]*



**Program Vice President:** While looking in the flame, see the hope that our work means to the clients we serve; to lift them up to newer levels by sharing our knowledge, expertise, and gentle care.

*[allow for a 5-10 second pause between each speaker; don't rush – allow reflection]*

**Historian:** Each time we enter the therapy room we have an opportunity to change the history of a client's legacy by helping them see the problems in a new light.

*[allow for a 5-10 second pause between each speaker; don't rush – allow reflection]*

**Executive Vice President:** The patterns you observe in the client's dance are powerful reflections of how they are connected, separated, influenced, and developed. When they come to you, use your knowledge in a manner that respectfully draws upon their strengths so that the flame will be a beacon to guide them through their next adventure.

*[allow for a 5-10 second pause between each speaker; don't rush – allow reflection]*

**Faculty Sponsor/Advisor:** As you stand here today, look around the room into the flames of the candles of each person in this room that together is playing a vital role in forming the Delta. Think of the knowledge that we each have, and how we continue to share with each other to help us develop as professionals.

*[allow for a 5-10 second pause between each speaker; don't rush – allow reflection]*

**Secretary:** The people around you are your colleagues, your friends that are helping to mold you into the professional marriage and family therapists that you aspire to be. Look among you. See the glow in their face that shines as a reflection of the light from the candle they hold.

*[allow for a 5-10 second pause between each speaker; don't rush – allow reflection]*

**Treasurer:** We are creating the foundation for our future, the knowledge we hold, share, and use to help the clients we serve and the profession we are becoming a part of is an investment we will always treasure.

*[allow for a 5-10 second pause between each speaker; don't rush – allow reflection]*

**Membership Vice President:** The circle is complete. Our light shines brightly and will make a difference in those we touch through our work. Remember this moment when you are tired, pushed beyond the limits of what you thought you could do as you study, learn, and contribute to the body of knowledge that defines our profession.

*[allow for a 5-10 second pause between each speaker; don't rush – allow reflection]*

**Membership Vice President:** Please extinguish your candles, return them to <designated basket/box/location>, and return to your seats.





## **PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES AND RECOGNITION**

**OF NEW MEMBERS CEREMONY** *(President and Executive VP or designated officers; Sometimes can be the Secretary and Treasurer while the President is off to the side to shake hands with each inductee as well. Allows all officers to be included in the ceremony.)*

**Executive Vice-President (or designee):** We will invite you one by one to come up this side (indicating the right side of the inductees) of the Delta to receive your certificate and return to your seat on this side (indicating the left side of the inductees)

*Alternating (optional), the President and the Executive VP (or Secretary and Treasurer) call out the names of each new member being initiated and that member is called forward to receive their membership certificate. Each member is congratulated individually and receives a hand shake when the certificate is awarded. If possible, the historian takes photos of each member receiving their certificate.*

## **CLOSING REMARKS: Faculty Member or Other Designee**

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*<Insert whatever closing remarks tailored for those joining that day>.* The ceremony is complete. I would like to invite everyone to gather for refreshments. Please join me in congratulating the new inductees for the <Chapter Name> Chapter of Delta Kappa. (Lead applause). New inductees, please stay for the group picture.