



## KDP Initiation Ceremony (Revised Feb. 2022)

*KDP Chapters may assign speaking roles in the Initiation Ceremony however they see fit. Typically, Chapter Officers will assist the Counselor in the reading of the ritual. The ritual also calls for three candles to be lit during the acceptance of the Three Principles. If using candles, one should be lit for each Principle when members say, "I do." KDP Chapters should comply with any university guidelines regarding open flames and consider electronic candles or no candles if open flames are prohibited.*

### **Presenter:**

Members of (Greek Name) of Kappa Delta Pi, National Honor Society in Education, are now assembled to reaffirm faith in the Ideals of our organization, and to initiate into membership candidates who would sincerely commit themselves to a lifetime of educational excellence.

Honor societies conduct rituals and ceremonies to impress upon members the ideals and duties every member should follow. KDP members participate in an initiation ceremony to celebrate their achievements, but also to recognize the responsibility that comes with such achievement.

We will begin by sharing the values of our organization and asking that you consider their meaning. These values reflect our beliefs and actions.

- **Excellence:** In all walks of life, as teacher and student, members strive for personal excellence. They do this because they recognize, with clear sight, that their

excellence can serve others. It is not enough to seek advancement merely for self.

- **Integrity:** Members uphold truth and transparency, which is the necessary bedrock of all education. The relationship between those who teach and those who learn demands intellectual earnestness, noble intention, and consistency of character.
- **Expertise:** Members dedicate themselves to the lifelong pursuit of learning to become leaders on campus, in the classroom, and in their schools. Through scholarship, they develop sound judgment for the benefit of their students and their profession.
- **Equity:** Members pledge themselves to be fair and impartial. They recognize that action is required to produce equity. If our responsibility is the advancement of others, then it is our responsibility to eliminate what hinders that advancement.
- **Diversity:** Education can uplift all. It promises greater freedom and nobler vision, and these things belong to us all. We fully embrace the duty to serve all regardless of heritage, age, gender, sexuality, and ability.
- **Empathy:** We are aware of, and sensitive to, the emotions of our members, colleagues, and those whom we teach. Excellent teachers build thriving communities and create lifelong opportunities for all.

We ask you now to take your place among us, and within an academic legacy that spans a century.

**Members of KDP, I present these candidates who wish to make the mission and values of KDP their own.**

*[Read initiates names]*

**We will now relate the origins of KDP.**

Kappa Delta Pi, known as KDP, was founded on March 8, 1911, at the University of Illinois by Dr. William Bagley. KDP became incorporated on June 8, 1911. Annually, we celebrate March 8 as KDP's Founder's Day.

KDP has evolved over 100 years to become the largest national honor society in education, and you are proudly joined by 35,000 peers and more than 700 chapters.

**What does membership in Kappa Delta Pi imply?**

It implies fostering the high ideals of the education profession by assuming trusteeship of a rich professional legacy. It is our privilege and duty as members and educators to transmit this legacy.

Candidates, do you accept the responsibility of transmitting this legacy? If so, you will answer, "I do."

**Candidates:** I do.

**Presenter: What are the principles upon which KDP is founded?**

Education is a vital societal force that encourages universal welfare and individual progress. Education is the cornerstone of democracy and the foundation for personal fulfillment.

Dr. Bagley penned KDP's motto: *Knowledge. Duty. Power.* He declared these three words "are fraught with the full meaning of the educational ideal."

We present, for your acceptance, the principles that guide all members of KDP.

**CANDLE LIGHTING:** *(Three candles may be lit throughout the reading of the principles. Light each one as members affirm the principle.)*

The first Principle is **Knowledge**:

This principle represents our commitment to advancement through continued education. As an Educator, one will be faithful to the cause of free inquiry and strive to eliminate prejudice and superstition. One will not distort evidence to support a favorite theory; not be blinded by the new or spectacular; not condemn the old simply because it is old.

Do you accept the Principle of **Knowledge**? If so, you will answer, "I do."

**Candidates:** I do.

**Presenter:** The second Principle is **Duty**:

We firmly resolve ourselves to a lifetime of service. Our Duty is service. Service to our profession, to our students, and to society. Our duty implies living so that others are strengthened and inspired. We toil to achieve justice, peace, and a better way of life for all.

Do you accept the Principle of **Duty**? If so, you will answer, "I do."

**Candidates:** I do.

**Presenter:** The third Principle is **Power**:

The Principle of Power represents the goal of our union—the will to change that which we cannot accept. We wield influence in society to benefit all. And yet, we are wise to remember the weight and responsibility of this incredible obligation.

Do you accept the Principle of **Power**? If so, you will answer, "I do."

**Candidates:** I do.

**Presenter:** We will now relate KDP's symbols and artifacts, and the treasured meaning they carry.

The symbols of KDP are infused with deeper meaning. Our Emblem contains four primary elements, all of which represent aspects of our history, purposes, and intent.

- The four leaves pay homage to KDP's Greek roots. They represent our desire for growth and connection.
- The circular shape represents the strength of our bond, and our perpetual will.
- The star, a symbol of our shared excellence and achievement.
- Purple is used to show KDP's nobility and wisdom. Gold to show prestige and courage.

KDP's seal pays homage to our history with the unifying imagery of four-pointed stars, circular design, and coloring.

- In the seal, the full organization name of "Kappa Delta Pi" is used, while also emphasizing the large "KDP" letters.
- The founding year of 1911 emphasizes the organization's more than 100 years of history.
- The principles – "Knowledge. Duty. Power." – as relevant today as they were when KDP was founded.
- The laurel wreath, a symbol of victory and honor relating our Greek origins.

The purpose and Principles of Kappa Delta Pi are now known to you. Are you ready to assume the obligation of membership in KDP? If so, you will answer, "I am."

**Candidates:**

I am.

**Presenter:**

Please repeat after me the obligation of KDP: I promise to abide by the standards of Kappa Delta Pi and to expand the influence of its purpose and Principles.

Initiates, you have just taken upon yourself the obligation of KDP.

We greet you as colleagues in the quest for a full, knowledgeable, and useful life. We are united in a profession whose purpose is to inspire young and old to grow by using their heritage; to develop a concern for the needs of others; and to strengthen moral character and personality so that collectively, as members of KDP, we may be worthy examples of a rich, wholesome life. To these purposes and challenges, in firm faith, we devote our lives. So to teach, that our words inspire a will to learn; so to serve, that each day may enhance the growth of exploring minds; so to live, that we may guide young and old to know the truth.

As a member of KDP you will exemplify the qualities of a teacher of excellence throughout the changes, challenges, and opportunities you experience. Your KDP journey includes being a member in a prestigious national community; being honored and celebrated for your calling; building your professional competencies; and receiving ongoing support as you strive to provide a quality equitable education for all.

I now declare you members of KDP, National Honor Society in Education, pledged to be faithful to its Principles and worthy to be bonded in fellowship with its members.

**CONGRATULATIONS, MEMBERS OF KDP!**

*(Give a round of applause.)*

This concludes our initiation ceremony.