

# DKG Grants-in-Aid Program Shines a Light on Bucks County Community College



*On the left is Dr. Felicia Ganther, president of Bucks County Community College, and on the right is Kathy Simmons, co-president of Delta Kappa Gamma Alpha-Nu chapter.*

By Assunta Deliman

Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) Alpha Nu is the Bucks County chapter of an international educators' group, formed for personal and professional development and community service. This month's meeting, held at Peddlers Village, gave focus to one of the many community initiatives supported by DKG: Grants-in-Aid. Dr. Felicia Ganther, the president of Bucks County Community College (BCCC), was the guest speaker who shared the opportunities available to the community.

Dr. Ganther's message is that the perception of the college does not reflect the wide range of programs and student opportunities available. Her mission is to make the community view BCCC as a pathway to a better life, a better living wage, and a better purpose in life.

The presenter's passion for education and the meaningful pursuit of a better life was fostered by her mother's commitment to all generations. Her mother believed that ordinary people with a sincere desire to make a better community could accomplish their task. She planted "seeds of success" to students of all ages, academic levels, and attitudes. She did not back away from the challenges of education or the stigma of being a woman.

On paper, Felicia Ganther has stellar credentials. She holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree and has 25 years' experience in education. In addition, she holds a Juris Doctor degree and a Ph.D. However, when one is in her audience, you observe an ordinary, engaging person who wants to grow the enrollment in BCCC and, in turn, to prepare her students for a successful career.

Dr. Ganther believes that there is a disconnect between her college and what it embodies. It does not only offer two-year programs that enable students to transfer to a four-year school. It is not "13th grade," a phrase that depicts the school as a shadow of a four-year institution.

Bucks County Community College offers a cost-effective price point to improve the lives of those who have a strong work ethic. The programs available are diverse and expand much further than general education classes needed to transfer.

For example, BCCC partners with the Estee Lauder Foundation. Students with a passion for the many diverse positions available at Estee Lauder can be considered for two-year scholarships. In addition, the college partners with Waste Management to provide programs that will enable students to attain jobs in a thriving, local business. A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program for men and women is offered to those who desire to drive large machinery. There is a Floral Program that is taught in connection with the Philadelphia Flower Show. In addition, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics programs (STEM) are offered to middle school students to explore career goals.

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Dr. Ganther's presentation affirms BCCC's commitment to DKG's Grants-in-Aid program, which offers two scholarships to students majoring in education each year to continue their education. The Grants-in-Aid program is one of the many partnerships supported by the Alpha Nu chapter of Bucks County. Literacy initiatives such as Write-Read-Write and the Book and Blankie project, as well as food drives, are the foundation of Delta Kappa Gamma Alpha Nu.

