



George County inmates inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society through academic achievements

GEORGE COUNTY – WLOX-TV- Eight George County inmates are now members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK), joining a Beta Tau Eta chapter that operates through Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's training center inside the George County Regional Correctional Facility.

Royce Myers, who has spent 12 years incarcerated, earned his GED two years ago before qualifying for the induction into the honor society.

"Everyone has a past and skeletons in the closet," Myers said. "I have nothing but time to better myself. I owe it to my parents anyway."

MGCCC President Dr. Mary Graham said the inmates met a defined academic standard to qualify.

"They have not only taken these academic courses but they've exceeded and met a level of excellence to qualify them for our honors program," Graham said.

Phi Theta Kappa President and CEO Lynn Tincher-Ladner said education plays a significant role in reducing recidivism.

"We all know if they finish their degree, they are very unlikely to come back to prison after they are released," Tincher-Ladner said. "Education is super important for these students, probably more than any other students we have."

PTK provides millions in scholarships each year to help students move from two-year to four-year colleges.

Myers said inmates should not be deterred by outside perceptions.

"If you have the opportunity to better yourself, just be yourself and do what you can," Myers said.

Tincher-Ladner said the eight new members join approximately 2,000 other inmates nationwide who are members of the society.

