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(For immediate release)

OC president to receive Phi Theta Kappa's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction in Seattle

ODESSA (April 5, 2011) – Odessa College president Dr. Gregory Williams will be one of nine college presidents/campus CEOs to receive a 2011 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction at Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Convention in Seattle, April 7-9.

This Award of Distinction is named after the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, who served as Chair of Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors for 20 years. She was President Emeritus of Highline Community College in Washington. The Gordon award recipients have provided extensive support and a variety of resources for their colleges' Phi Theta Kappa chapters, including faculty advisor release time, a line-item budget for the chapters, financial support for chapters to participate in regional and international events and scholarships for Phi Theta Kappa members. Many of these presidents and CEOs speak at their chapter inductions, serve as statewide Phi Theta Kappa presidential ambassadors and coordinate All-State Academic Team programs.

The recipients of the Shirley B. Gordon Awards of Distinction for 2011 are:

Dr. Karen Bleeker, president of Community College of Denver in Colorado; Ms. Carol Churchill, president of Mid Michigan Community College in Michigan; Dr. Fred Grogan, president of Metropolitan Community College-Longview in Missouri; Mr. Tom Lee, provost of Des Moines Area Community College-Boone Campus in Iowa; Dr. Adena Loston, president of St. Phillip's College in Texas; Dr. Jesse Smith, president of Jones County Junior College in Mississippi; Dr. Dianne Van Hook, chancellor of College of the Canyons in California; Dr. Gregory Williams, president of Odessa College in Texas; and Dr. Paul Young, president of Northern Wyoming Community College District-Gillette College and Sheridan College in Wyoming.

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in American higher education with 1,270 chapters on two-year and community college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 2.5 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with approximately 125,000 students inducted annually.