MCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter earns awards

Manchester Community College's Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Upsilon Alpha chapter took home several awards from the New England Regional Spring Conference held recently at Asnuntuck Community College.

The national honor society for associate degree students recognized MCC's chapter with the Phi Theta Kappa Five Star and Reach Awards. MCC's chapter also scored third place each for the Honors in Action Project and College Project Awards, and also placed for the Most Distinguished Chapter Award.

For the College Project, chapter students commissioned New York-based artist Zeph Farmby to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art that will reflect thematic elements of diversity, equity, and community. The painting will be exhibited at MCC, and the students are planning an unveiling event upon completion of the piece.

“We are aiming to highlight and contribute to local minority-owned businesses,” Nick Hirth, of Coventry, said. Hirth is majoring in graphic design and is the Alpha Upsilon Alpha president.

“We're planning to invite vendors, guest speakers, musical acts and charity/activist groups to help celebrate and highlight our local minority communities.”

The Honors in Action Project began late last year. The chapter sent out a survey to MCC students to gather data on their experiences at MCC and other educational establishments with the goal of using their input to make decisions on improvements to the campus environment. “The results were certainly eye-opening,” Hirth said. “We met as a chapter and compiled a list of improvements that can help make our campus more accessible, more easily navigated and better educated about the needs of current and upcoming generations of students and faculty.”