

## Epsilon Beta: Redefining the Library Experience at Hickman High School

Background/research/situation analysis: At Hickman High School, a group of passionate students formed the organization Epsilon Beta to transform the library into an accessible, dynamic community hub. Extensive research including surveys, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews with students and staff revealed that the library is more than just a repository of books; it is a safe space that nurtures creativity, learning, and personal growth. Students expressed a desire for an environment that reflects their interests and fosters community engagement. In response, Epsilon Beta, led by co-presidents Kate Waller and Alison Hall, initiated projects such as a courtyard beautification proposal with a story walk, interactive read carts, and engaging literacy sessions with preschoolers. Their work has been captured in compelling digital media that has been shared through multiple channels, including the Sharing the Gold internal newsletter and the school website. Goal: Enhance community understanding of how Hickman High School, under the direction of student leaders, transformed the library into a vibrant, inclusive space that promotes literacy and community engagement, thereby enhancing the overall educational experience. Objective: Share the Story (Create Awareness) - Epsilon Beta is turning the library into a digital beacon of literacy and community service. Through innovative projects like a courtyard story walk, interactive reading sessions with preschoolers, and the maintenance of read carts stocked with diverse materials, the club is creating a tangible legacy of inclusion and empowerment. Engaging video content and digital publications shared via the Sharing the Gold newsletter, school website, and social media tell the story of how these student-driven initiatives have revitalized the library, making it a place where every voice is heard and every student feels at home. Key Messages: 1. Empowerment Through Literacy: Epsilon Beta empowers students to transform their library into a welcoming, innovative space that nurtures a lifelong love of reading. 2. Community and Inclusion: The revamped library serves as a safe space where every student is valued and engaged, promoting a strong sense of community. 3. Innovation in Action: By integrating digital storytelling with creative projects, Epsilon Beta sets a new standard for how educational spaces can be defined by the users and inspire and connect communities. Strategies 1. Digital Storytelling: Produce high-quality video content,

including interviews with students and teachers that seamlessly blends event coverage with personal testimonials, ensuring the story is both engaging and informative. 2. Multi-Channel Distribution: Air the video on CPS-TV and promote it through internal newsletters and encourage attending schools to share the video on owned social media channels to maximize reach. 3. Engagement: Using the CPS-TV distribution platform, capture viewership information. Evaluation: Since airing on April 16, 2024, the viewing audience has watched the story 279 of times. Additionally, it has been viewed 16 more times since on-demand viewing became available in June 2024: Prior to the switch to the on-demand viewing option, the CPS-TV Page with the video linked had 9,478 visits. The video was also shared on the Sharing the Gold internal newsletter.