HERITAGE
GROWING AND CONNECTING EDUCATORS
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PDK CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT

As part of our PDK2020 National Conference, taking place in Washington, D.C., June 17-20, we are excited to announce two new opportunities for PDK community members to participate!

The National Institute on Central Office Leadership (NICOL) will take place June 18-20. This is an essential three-day learning experience focused on helping school districts and their leaders operationalize equity.

On June 18, we will be hosting a full-day symposium, Grow the Teaching Profession: Recruiting, Retaining, and Developing the Next Generation of Educators, where thought leaders and practitioners from around the country will be exploring best practices for districts and states to mitigate the educator shortage by recruiting from your own school community. NICOL attendees will have the option to sign up for this event as a pre-conference session. Don't miss out on this opportunity to build a solution that works for your community!

Substantial discounts for all programming are available for PDK members! Visit pdkintl.org/heritage for more information.
New Website Look

We are excited to unveil a new look on our PDK Association website! You don’t have to update your bookmarks; you will still find us at pdkassociation.org. There you’ll find information on new member resources, chapter activities and best practices, a calendar of upcoming events, and more.

Visit pdkassociation.org to check out our new look!

Curated Content Bundles Available

PDK’s Practice-Ready Content Bundles draw from Kappan magazine’s deep pool of high-quality research and analysis to help you dive deep on the topics you care about. Pre-made bundles are available to PDK members free of charge via your online member portal. Need research in a specific area? Place a custom bundle order, and we’ll deliver the curated content you need in two weeks.

Visit pdkintl.org/heritage for more details!

RECRUITING AND RETAINING TEACHERS OF COLOR

A PDK Virtual Town Hall Event

Join us on February 18 for the next in our series of PDK International Virtual Town Halls, Recruiting and Retaining Teachers of Color. PDK CEO Dr. Joshua P. Starr will be joined by noted Kappan authors Dr. Travis Bristol of University of California, Berkley, and Dr. Dan Goldhaber of the American Institutes for Research. We’ll be discussing how to recruit, retain, and support teachers of color and sharing what the data show us about why it’s important to have a diverse teacher workforce. We’ll also be fielding questions from our audience, including PDK, PLT, Educators Rising, and Educators Rising Collegiate members!

Visit pdkintl.org/heritage to register to attend or to view videos of past Town Hall events.
Exploring the World with PDK

PDK International used 2019 as a year to revamp our Travel Program. Throughout last year we awarded Read Scholarship Funds to members to fund travel to Finland and the Baltic region, South Africa, Portugal, the Netherlands and Belgium, Scotland, Italy, and Germany and Poland. With the help of these funds, members were able to explore the world and bring what they learned back to their classrooms and communities.

We are excited to announce that the revamped PDK International Travel Program, Bringing the World to Your Students, has a full trip to South Africa for this coming July and is about to open enrollment for a July 2021 trip to China.

To learn more, visit pdkintl.org/heritage.

Curriculum Audits with PDK and CMSi

PDK and Curriculum Management Solutions, Inc. (CMSi) have more than 20 years of joint experience in performing curriculum audits for school districts. PDK-CMSi has provided curriculum audits to school systems ranging in size from 450 students to more than 100,000 students.

The audit approach results in a thorough understanding of where the district can benefit from improved systems, structures, and processes for managing curriculum design, development, delivery, evaluation, and improvement. All findings and recommendations are provided to assist district leaders to refine policies, systems, and practices for managing curriculum with one key goal: improving student achievement.

To request an audit for your district or to learn how to become trained as a curriculum auditor, visit pdkintl.org/heritage.

PDK Scholarship Program

Our annual PDK Educational Foundation Scholarship Program is now open and accepting applications. This program is one of the many ways that PDK fulfills its vision of cultivating great future educators. The PDK Educational Foundation awards roughly 100 scholarships each year to prospective educators who are connected to PDK through memberships Educators Rising, Educators Rising Collegiate, Pi Lambda Theta, and the PDK Association. One-time and renewable scholarship awards range from $500 to $5,000. Scholarship applications will close on April 6, 2020, at midnight (12 am) EST.

For the latest updates, visit pdkintl.org/heritage.
Chapter Spotlight

This year, the University of Pennsylvania PDK chapter in Philadelphia has recommitted to its efforts to grow the chapter in order to meaningfully support public education. In March, they hosted their inaugural community meeting with a focus on supporting Philadelphia Public Schools. In May, the chapter hosted their first awards banquet dinner, where over 100 attendees met to celebrate leaders in the local education community.

Moving forward, the chapter membership committee is working on supports around Educators Rising Collegiate and High School programs in their area and working toward initiatives that will help to positively change the perception of becoming a teacher and encourage young students to join the education profession.

Want to highlight the great work your chapter is doing? Send us your latest chapter newsletter or contact us at memberservices@pdkintl.org. Chapter highlights are now being shared on the new PDK Association website!

New Board Chair

PDK is excited to announce that Dr. Angela L.E. Walmsley is the new Chair of the PDK International Board of Directors. Dr. Walmsley been a member of PDK since 2000 and has been working in the field of education for approximately 25 years, having taught mathematics and other subjects at the middle school, high school, and university levels. An author of numerous books and articles focusing on K-12 education, she is currently a Professor of Mathematics and Research Methodology at Concordia University Wisconsin. We are thrilled to have her take on the role of Chair with our Board and look forward to her insight and guidance as we move into 2020.

First person submissions for Kappan

Since introducing “First Person”, a forum to share your experiences with other Kappan readers, we’ve seen stories of a dramatic first day on the job, the perils of teaching children in a conflict zone, and a story about what it was like to be the kid who asked too many questions. Don’t miss a chance to have your story told in Kappan this year! Submit your 1,000 to 2,000-word personal narrative to manuscripts@pdkintl.org. Learn more about the submission process at kappanonline.org/writers-guidelines.
Student Spotlight

Dajsha Williams is the current Educators Rising National President and a freshman at Ohio State University.

Inspired by the support she gained from numerous PDK mentors and donors, over her three years participating in the Educators Rising high school program, Dajsha has held state and national leadership roles as she’s built her path to becoming an educator. Hoping to progress from teacher to principal and eventually superintendent, Dajsha believes a teacher is someone who understands their students and works to listen to them, fulfilling their wants, needs, and dreams for the future. We look forward to seeing Dajsha and her fellow officers on stage at the Educators Rising National Conference at PDK2020!

Collegiate Update

Since launching at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, our Educators Rising Collegiate program has grown to more than 40 colleges and universities across the country. Our chapters have been busy in their founding year, with activities ranging from our Eastern New Mexico University chapter organizing an event with EdRising high school students and the New Mexico state teacher of the year (seen in photo below at their collegiate chapter conference), to our Towson University’s chapter’s hosting of the PDK Poll event.

In addition, collegiate chapters like our American University chapter are working with their university’s PDK chapter, looking to PDK members to share their experiences as veteran educators, help students create practice lesson plans, and serve as proofreaders on op-eds sent out by the collegiate chapter.

For more information on how to start a collegiate chapter at your school, or to support a collegiate chapter in your area, visit pdkintl.org/heritage.
New PDK Staff

PDK is excited to welcome Anna Donley to our team as our newest Membership Associate! Anna has experience working in the nonprofit world in a variety of different capacities, from research and data analysis, to public affairs and advocacy, and she looks forward to serving educators in her new role at PDK. Anna earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Psychology and Spanish from Nebraska Wesleyan University and is currently working toward a Masters of Arts in Community Psychology from the University of Brighton. Her thesis explores mental health and education reform in public schools.

Distinguished Educator

Dr. Julia Ballenger, Professor, Texas A&M University-Commerce

PDK Distinguished Educators exemplify the core values of the PDK Association; commitment to research, service, and leadership. This year, PDK Distinguished Educator Dr. Ballenger celebrates 50 years as an educator! A longtime PDK member, Dr. Ballenger’s mantra is to always strive to help students accomplish what they perceived to be impossible. Part of her efforts to achieve the impossible led her to be one of the editors of Women of Color in STEM: Navigating the Workforce, a book highlighting women of color who have broken down barriers in numerous STEM fields. Throughout her career, Dr. Ballenger has believed that one piece of wisdom she’s gained can serve every educator:

“Be authentic. Children need teachers who are real. Truly care for all of your students. Students do not care how much you know until they learn how much you care about them.”

For more information on how to become recognized as a PDK Distinguished Educator, visit pdkintl.org/heritage.

Protect Your Family with Term Life Coverage through PDK

Help protect your family’s future with a term life insurance plan from New York Life. This graded term life plan features fixed rates within five-year age bonds. Coverage is also renewable to age 80. Visit pdkintl.org/heritage to learn more about the term life insurance that is available through the PDK Member Insurance Program.
SUPPORTING THE PDK COMMUNITY

Impact Report

In 2018-2019, PDK International made great progress toward our mission of supporting public educators, and we could not have done it without the support of our amazing Educators Rising, Pi Lambda Theta, and PDK Association members, friends, and donors. To highlight these numerous and varied contributions from our community, we’ve created the PDK Impact Report. The report showcases eight outstanding ways that your support enables us to grow and connect educators.

To view the report, visit pdkintl.org/heritage.

Planned Giving Opportunities

The PDK Heritage Society allows our community to look to both the past and future. In addition to keeping a record of PDK’s progress and triumphs, we also recognize donors, friends, and members of community who make planned gifts to PDK Educational Foundation part of their estate plans. Interested in learning more about how you can help ensure the future for next generation of educators? Contact Boosaba Tan at btan@pdkintl.org or 571-814-5417 to learn more about your giving options.

The Kersey/Oglesby Family Endowed Scholarship was established by George Kersey, Jr. in honor of his parents and grandparents. Mary Oglesby Kersey, pictured here with her grandchildren, is the surviving member of that group of honorees.

Call for conference volunteers!

Your expertise needed! PDK is looking for dedicated volunteers to help support us during the PDK2020 conference, June 17-21 in Washington, D.C.

Visit pdkintl.org/heritage for more information on volunteer roles and to view our volunteer application form.
Don’t wait to renew!
All PDK member dues will be going up by $4.95 on March 1. Lock in your existing rate by renewing today.

Visit pdkassociation.org for information on your current member benefits and lifetime membership discounts.