Note from the Executive Board:

Dear Kappans and Friends of PDK,

As we approach a new year, we want to highlight and look back on our year of successful programs. The executive board and chapter members enjoyed several programs that addressed a range of current issues, such as race and racism in teaching, and teacher empowerment. This year, the NYU Chapter inducted candidates Dr. Amanda Boston, Curtis Cox, Rodney Fitzgerald Hughes, Kennybel Peña, Diandra Verwayne and Patience Yeboah. At our annual Installation Dinner in May, we welcomed Cheryl Watson-Harris, First Deputy Chancellor at the NYC Department of Education, who provided the evening’s remarks. A spotlight on the First Deputy Chancellor is featured in the “Program Highights”.

In this issue, we also share more opportunities with our membership to advance their professional endeavors, engage and learn with one another – make sure to scroll through! Feel free to share additional events and programs with us so we can promote them in our next issue.

We welcome PDK members and friends to join us on Tuesday, December 17 for our Holiday Social. There will be food & cocktails to celebrate the year and one another’s accomplishments. This is also a great opportunity to get to know members of the executive board (no worries, we’re a friendly bunch!) and fellow educators. If you haven’t already, please RSVP to Gene Mann at Gmann@optonline.net no later than Sunday, December 15.

Thank you to members who supported us and all our guest presenters this year.

Please send inquiries to Sophia James at SJames80s@gmail.com.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

➢ On October 16, 2018, we welcomed presenters, Kirsten Cole and Diandra Verwayne who discussed an article they co-authored, “Becoming Upended: Teaching and Learning about Race and Racism with Young Children and Their Families.” (Young Children, May 2018) You can find the article on the NAEYC website.

➢ On November 13, 2018, Jessica Lipschultz, former teaching assistant at NYU, shared her work on “School discipline: Cultural scripts, a struggle for fairness, and notions of insubordinations”.

➢ In December 2018, the chapter held a lively holiday reception at Latitude Bar & Lounge in midtown Manhattan (see photo at top right).

➢ On February 12, 2019, Dr. Amanda Boston presented her research to the board and chapter members: “The Effects of Gentrification on Urban Centers”. You can find the full presentation on our Facebook page (see photo at bottom right).

➢ On March 12, 2019, Professor Andrea Gabor treated us to excerpts and discussion from her book, “After the Education Wars: How Smart Schools Upend the Business of Reform”. You can find the full discussion on our Facebook page.

➢ Our Fall programs continued at The Union League Club, located at 38 E 37th Street in Manhattan. On October 19, 2019, Dr. Amarnauth Samaroo presented and discussed his book, “Evaluating the Power of Teacher Empowerment”. Program attendees received a free copy of his book.


➢ PDK Spotlight:

On May 21, 2019, the NYU Chapter held its annual Installation Dinner, at which the chapter welcomed new inductees, a special guest speaker and awarded college scholarships to high school students interested in public education. The 2018-2019 PDK-NYU Doctoral Award was presented to Dr. Amanda Boston, and 2019 Prospective Educators Scholarships were awarded to seniors from the Thomas Jefferson Campus, Priscille Hilaire and Alisha Young. The evening remarks were provided by Cheryl Watson-Harris, First Deputy Chancellor at the NYC Department of Education. Mrs. Cheryl Watson-Harris is an equity leader and is known as a true champion for children. Mrs.
Watson-Harris began her career in education in New York City’s public school system, working in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of Brooklyn. After attending Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Mrs. Watson-Harris served as an assistant principal for one year, and then was appointed as the youngest principal in the history of Boston Public Schools. In Boston, she served as a principal for 15 years, leading two K-8 schools from State Corrective Action to Good Standing, and later led as a network superintendent. In 2015, Mrs. Watson-Harris decided to return to her native New York City to serve as the Executive Director of the Brooklyn South Field Support Center. Mrs. Watson-Harris’ success quickly gained the recognition of then Chancellor Carmen Fariña; less than one year later, she was named the Senior Executive Director for the Office of Field Support, where she provided strategic guidance and oversight of all eight field support centers across the City. Mrs. Watson-Harris’ effectiveness as a systems-level strategist and equity leader was then noted by Chancellor Richard Carranza who appointed her as his First Deputy Chancellor in July 2018. As First Deputy Chancellor, Mrs. Watson-Harris oversees the nine new Executive Superintendents and their Borough/Citywide Office support and superintendent teams in advancing school improvement and outcomes for all children.

 Mrs. Watson-Harris is a proud product of the NYC public education system and is now a proud parent of three children enrolled in public school in New York. She is married to Dr. Roger F. Harris, former combat Marine, National Distinguished Principal, and two-time National Blue Ribbon Schools Award for Excellence in Education Award recipient. You can find photos from our Annual Installation on Facebook (see select event photos below).
Have you read any good books lately? Here are some books from our recent programs...

- **After the Education Wars**
  - *New Smart Schools Unspool the Business of Reform*
  - Andrea Gabor

- **Evaluating The Power Of Teacher Empowerment**
  - In Increasing K-12 Student Achievement

- **TAKEOVER**
  - *Race, Education, and American Democracy*
  - Domingo Morel

- **CLASS WAR**
  - *The Architecture of Oppression*

- **THE TEACHER WARS**
  - *A History of America’s Most Embattled Profession*
  - Dana Goldstein

- **Harlem’s Rattlers and the Great War**
  - *The Untold Story of Black Troops and the African American Army for Equality*

- **The American Plate**
  - *What’s at Stake?*
  - Michael Fabricant / Michelle Fine

UPCOMING EVENTS

PDK members and guests are invited to join Phi Delta Kappa-NYU at its Holiday Reception at Hurley’s Saloon
232 W 48th St, New York, NY 10036
from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

This is a free event for members. RSVP is required to gmann@optonline.net

Save the dates to your 2020 calendar. Program details are forthcoming:
- **February 11**
- **March 10**
- **May 19**
- **June 9**
PDK Learning Opportunities & Professional Development

➢ PIER Public Seminar Series offered by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University. View video recordings of past PIER Public Seminars, such as Rucker Johnson on *Children of the Dream: Why School Integration Works* (September 24, 2019): https://cepr.harvard.edu/archived-video-recordings.

➢ Do you know of a promising high school senior interested in a career in education? Through the PDK-NYU Prospective Educators Scholarship, we acknowledge students who aspire to careers in public education. Students selected by our chapter receive: (1) a $250 stipend send to the student’s account at the college attended in Fall 2020, (2) recognition at our May 2020 installation at NYU’s Torch Club, and (3) any additional scholarship funds deriving from PDK International as a result of the application. Additional details regarding the application process will be released in December.

➢ Call for Proposals: PDK2020 PDK International invites individuals and groups to submit proposals that focus on the following conference strands: Evaluation, Assessment, and Accountability; Learning and Growth; Policy and Practice; Leadership and Development; Chapter Development and Growth. Proposals should be presented in one of the following formats: Poster, Deep Dive, "Hot-Topic" Roundtable, or Interactive Presentation. **Deadline for submissions is January 13, 2020.** To submit a proposal and learn more about the process, visit http://pdkintl.org/conference-proposals/

➢ NEW PDK Mentorship Program! PDK International is recruiting from their professional membership to match young educators with an experienced educator who has been in their shoes, creating a mutually beneficial partnership to support them in their career growth. Their mentor will serve as a resource to discuss leadership, effective teaching techniques, classroom management strategies, learner engagement, work-life balance, and other career questions and concerns. This new opportunity is being offered exclusively to PDK and EdRising Collegiate members, students who are currently pursuing a degree in education, recent graduates/young professionals. This is a new professional and personal development benefit to membership. Please spread the information and help young educators get a mentor to have a reliable source of support as they navigate beginning a career in the classroom! **Apply here:** https://pdkintl.org/mentorship-program/ and for more information, contact: asolovyeva@pdkintl.org.

➢ The 2019 PDK Poll of the Public’s Attitudes Toward the Public Schools found that half of public school teachers nationally have seriously considered leaving the profession in the past few years. The finding is disheartening, but there is hope. PDK International brought together four leading voices in education at Towson University on September 24, 2019, to discuss the findings of the poll and in the process, they voiced some solutions to the teacher retention issue facing our country - including teachers learning how to advocate. PDK has developed a [member toolkit on the PDK Poll](#) results as part of our member resources to enable teachers to work with their communities to elevate the conversation and advocate for the profession.
A new award has launched that will grant one extraordinary Manhattan public school teacher $100,000 along with $20,000 for the winner’s school. The Flag Award for Teaching Excellence, funded by private investment firm founder Glenn Fuhrman and his wife, Amanda — philanthropists who mothers were both public school teachers — is accepting nominations through Jan. 12, 2020. Nominees must be public school teachers, from K-12, with at least five years’ experience. The winner, along with four finalists awarded $10,000 each, will be announced in May (the main cash prize is unrestricted, but the $20,000 school grant must be used to create an arts-based initiative created by the winner).

PDK International is excited to announce the opening of registration for PDK2020!

The conference will be held in June 2020 in Washington, D.C.

A variety of programming for a wide audience of educators is available depending on your interest area.

“Grow the Teaching Profession: Recruiting, Retaining, and Developing the Next Generation of Educators”
Symposium on June 18 @ PDK2020
Register now!

This full day symposium explores best practices for districts and states to mitigate the educator shortage by recruiting from their own school community. Attendees will come away with an actionable plan based on PDK’s guide to best practices for recruiting and retaining a diverse educator workforce through focusing on candidates currently sitting in their classrooms. Through panels, keynote presentations, and breakout sessions, attendees will examine research, learn how districts and states are seeing successful impact, consider systemic barriers to navigate and overcome, and collaborate with peers and colleagues around recruiting, retaining, and developing the next generation of educators.

National Institute on Central Office Leadership
"Operationalizing Equity, Achieving Excellence"
June 18-20 @ PDK2020
Register now!

The launch of the National Institute on Central Office Leadership (NICOL) will be at PDK2020. Central officer leaders of every experience level will benefit from engaging in and learning about aspects of district work through an equity lens. Choose between the General Leadership strand, designed for central office leaders with at least 1 year of experience, or the Bootcamp strand, designed for practitioners that are in their first year of central office leadership, or those aspiring to a system level leadership role. NICOL is designed as a deep dive on the application of research to practice. You will interact with experts on leading equity, central office redesign, curriculum management, principal leadership development, teacher leadership, social and emotional learning, and school culture. You will participate in a series of forums, workshops, and small group discussions.

PDK members can save up to 45% by taking advantage of early bird prices. Because PDK encourages districts to send teams in order to maximize the experience, PDK is also offering a group discount. Teams can include but are not limited to the Superintendent, Teaching & Learning, Principal Supervisors, and Equity Officers. Please email EdPartnerships@pdkintl.org when you register a team of four to get the group discount applied.
NICOL participants also have the option to register for the symposium, "Grow the Teaching Profession: Recruiting, Retaining, and Developing the Next Generation of Educators," as a pre-conference session.

PDK-NYU calls for members to submit their original research or editorial on current issues in education. We are also interested in sharing academic or professional accomplishments. Submissions must be current, and can be presented as a link to a file or short form (250-500 words). Please submit to Sophia James at SJames80s@gmail.com with subject title “PDK-NYU News – [full name]”. Thank you!

Please enjoy a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!