

January 2017

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International

Notes from Josh's Desk

I hope everyone's 2017 is off to a great start! PDK staff has jumped right into January with very full plates.

We have forged a partnership with the Harvard Graduate School of Education to leverage the expertise and skills of 25 education leadership doctoral students to provide support in the form of strategy and recommendations for five identified problems of practice we would like to accelerate progress around. We are excited about the partnership because it is mutually beneficial in that it provides us much needed capacity while giving the doctoral students tremendous learning opportunities. We will host the cohort of doctoral students to engage in a deep dive of the work with them so that they are able to gain a comprehensive understanding of our work and expectations. They will then engage in research and design work for a span of 6-8 weeks that will culminate in the production of deliverables that we hope will help us accelerate progress in our work.

This month I'm speaking to the Federal Policy Institute, sponsored by IEL, and the Washington Area School Superintendents Council on the 2016 poll results and implications for federal policy.

Joshua P. Starr, CEO PDK International

PDK Scholarships

The 2017 PDK Scholarship Application will open on **Sunday, January 15 at 12 am EST**. The deadline for this year's applicants will be April 1. The links for this year's application can be found [here](#). For those interested in becoming volunteer scholarship readers, please contact Katrina Breese at kbreese@pdkintl.org.

9 days in Germany with PDK

The journey begins July 7, registration opens Feb. 15



Educational Partnerships

Southbridge Public Schools—Gislaine and Josh spent a day engaging with the Superintendent as thought partners to do some strategic planning around key aspects of instructional leadership. They then had an opportunity to work with the larger team on effective data analysis and improvement processes.

Chesterfield County Public Schools—We are excited to share that on January 17, 2017 Josh will be attending the release of our report on Chesterfield County Public Schools. That culminating release will allow us to bring the contract to a close. The distribution of this report will be coming in the next few months.

Huddle Up Baltimore City—We are continuing to conduct school visits and spend time learning about the stories of the schools from the Principals. As we do

the work of identifying the needs of Black boys in grades K-3 in the two schools, we are finding out that many of the needs and challenges we are uncovering are similar to the realities in Kansas City.

Huddle Up Kansas City—We have continued to engage with the community to discuss existing and potential resources and partnerships that would serve to either (a) provide direct support to Black boys in the two schools we support or (b) build adult capacity to recognize and address mental health and trauma needs. We are working with the schools to implement a set of activities that will occur on January 17; the Kellogg Foundation (Huddle Up financial sponsor) has designated this day as a National Day of Racial Healing. We will share highlights from the day's activities.

February is a time for love. If you're planning to purchase your loved one a new vehicle this Valentine's Day (or purchase one for yourself!), consider donating your trade-in to support PDK. There is no better way to show your support than through the gift of a vehicle donation. Donating your vehicle is easy and can make a big difference. PDK appreciates your support. Help share the love this season and visit <http://pdkintl.careasy.org/HOME.html> or call 855-500-RIDE to get your vehicle donation started.

Educators Rising Micro-credentials

Educators Rising is helping high school aspiring educators develop the skills they need to be ready for the classroom. As students develop teaching skills, they deserve recognition for their growth. Micro-credentials (or digital badges) are performance-based assessments in which rising educators can showcase their growing skills.

On January 9, Dan Brown, Josh Starr, and Larissa Hageman attended the Digital Promise

Micro-credential Summit to announce the launch of the [Educators Rising “Aspiring to Teach” micro-credentials](#). These five micro-credentials are available to all preservice educators.



[Fixing the Teacher Diversity Gap](#)



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

[ASPEN Commission on SEAD](#)



[Josh Starr guest blog for Rick Hess](#)



If you would like to share your story as an educator, email CEO@pdkintl.org, subject line "My Impact on Education."

We want to know your plans! Please send chapter communications, newsletters, or yearly agendas to CEO@pdkintl.org or mail to 1525 Wilson Blvd, Suite 705, Arlington, VA 22209.

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