

November 2017

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PDK newsletter

Notes from Josh's Desk

We have settled into our new offices and brought all of our staff together to celebrate the move, our successes during the past year, and the upcoming holidays. It was a great time for new and old staff to come together and become energized by our new incentives and programs. Below you will find more information on changes we are making to help support educators at all levels.

We are conducting a survey to current and former PDK and Pi Lambda Theta members, as well as potential members, to gauge what PDK resources are valuable and what direction PDK should take moving forward. If you would like to participate please take the survey [here](#). I appreciate your help in this endeavor.

Joshua P. Starr, CEO PDK International



Pi Lambda Theta Membership Eligibility

We've updated our eligibility criteria to allow students to [apply](#) in their junior year of their undergraduate program, allowing them greater access to [scholarship opportunities](#) provided by Pi Lambda Theta.

Present at the 2018 Educators Rising National Conference

Educators Rising, a division of PDK International, is a national network that provides passionate young people with hands-on teaching experience, sustains their interest in the profession, and helps them cultivate the skills they need to be successful educators. Each year, more than 1,000 students and their teacher leaders come together to learn and grow at the [Educators Rising National Conference](#), which will take place in Orlando from June 21–24, 2018. This year's conference theme is "Aiming Higher," and session topics can range from career guidance to social justice.

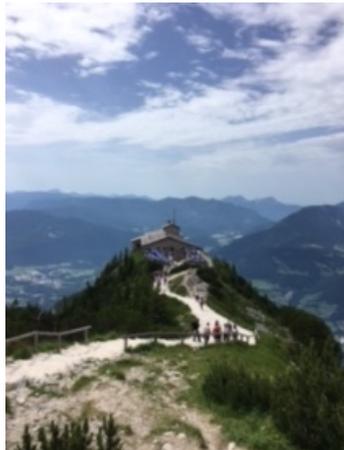
If you're interested in joining us and sharing your knowledge and skills with aspiring and current educators from across the country, now's the time to submit your breakout session proposal! Proposals are due by 5 p.m. ET on **January 15, 2018**, so [learn more and submit yours today](#).

PDK Study Tour Testimonials

Keep an eye on your email for the 2018 Study Tour announcement and member discounts!

"This was my first time traveling with PDK International, but it will not be the last. We did a lot of walking, learning, eating, laughing and sharing throughout the 9-day tour. I was amazed we got to see and experience everything on the itinerary so fully in so little time. Every detail was taken care of superbly. The EF Tour guide was personable, the destination tour guide knowledgeable, the hotels accommodating. Enjoyed the tour immensely, and upon my return shared all I had experienced and learned with my students who now have a deeper understanding of Germany's culture, history, and people."

-Denise Abraham, PDK Member



"If you love to travel and learn while having fun, consider a teacher travel tour with PDK. I've done four (Costa Rica, Scandinavia, Amsterdam--Paris, Munich--Berlin) --each different, all memorable, a value for the mind and body. PDK does the planning, including school visits, and we just go, go go! When I go again I hope I see old friends and make new ones."

-Michael Jackson, PDK Member

Double your Pi Lambda Theta donations!

An anonymous, long-time Pi Lambda Theta member and donor to the PDK Educational Foundation has once again made a \$100,000 gift to the Pi Lambda Theta Student Support Scholarship Program. Additionally, the donor has pledged to match all donations to the Pi Lambda Theta Student Support Scholarship Program up to \$50,000. To learn more about how you can double your donation, please contact Boosaba Tan at btan@pdkintl.org or 571-814-5417.

PDK International – Educators Rising Engagement Opportunity

Educators Rising, a division of PDK International, is a national network of aspiring teachers and their mentors. In addition to providing innovative programs and activities for students who are interested in teaching, Educators Rising also offers districts and schools with the tools they need to establish high school-based “grow-your-own” teacher pathway programs. Specifically, we offer two new sets of products: the EdRising Academy curriculum and the Educators Rising “Beginning to Teach” micro-credentials (or digital badges). There have been a number of schools and districts interested in the new curriculum and micro-credentials! We are seeking PDK members who have experience working in schools and districts to help make phone calls to interested parties to discuss the nuances and benefits of these products. [Learn more about the position and the qualities we are looking for in an ideal candidate.](#)

Education Partnerships

We officially launched the system leaders Community of Learning and Practice (CoLP) on November 2 and 3, 2017 in Arlington VA. 19 leaders from 7 school districts across the country joined us for an opportunity to learn together, share challenges, explore opportunities, and design solutions while building a supportive community of system leaders committed to equity and social justice. For more information about our leaders and

our theory of action, visit [the CoLP page on PDKSolutions.org](#).

Gislaine Ngounou, Chief Program Officer at PDK, recently co-authored [Learning to Lead for Racial Equity](#), which was published in Kappan Magazine with a focus on building capacity to lead for racial equity.

American Voice

PDK International is launching the American Voice campaign as a new charitable giving initiative to honor the history of the *PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools* and ensure its continued independence. Throughout its 50 years, the national PDK poll has been funded exclusively by the PDK Foundation, which has enabled it to preserve its independence and integrity. To make a gift to the American Voice campaign – visit www.pdkintl.org/donate or contact Katrina Breese, Sr. Director of Development at kbreese@pdkintl.org or (571)335-0682.

Educators Rising

Former Secretary of Education John King tweeted “Inspired by work of [@EducatorsRising](#) to 'grow the next generation of highly skilled educators,'” and shared [this article](#).

43,352 Educators Rising members have joined since Educators Rising launched in August 2015. Forty-nine percent are students of color.



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