



# HERITAGE

INVESTING IN ELEVATING EDUCATION

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## THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER SPONSOR



**Trust for  
Insuring Educators**  
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Dear Kappans, Thetans, and Friends of PDK,

Welcome to the second volume of the Heritage Newsletter! In this volume, we highlight the exciting new activities our seven divisions have undertaken during this past fiscal year and preview some of the new programs and resources we will be offering in the coming months.

PDK International is continuing to expand our continuum of supports for educators, no matter where they are on their professional path. Through our work with high schoolers, college students, classroom educators, and system-level leaders, we offer a lifetime of resources for educators.

All of our work is made possible by the PDK Educational Foundation and the contributions we receive from generous Kappans and Thetans. Your continued generosity has been key to our growth and transformation. In this newsletter, you'll see highlights of the work you have invested in.

We encourage you to provide feedback and stay engaged with staff to let us know what you want to see from PDK. We're making some exciting changes, and we look forward to working closely with you to continue to support educators at every stage of their career. Thank you as always for your participation in being part of PDK's mission of engaging educators and strengthening schools so that every student thrives.

Warm regards,



**Katrina Breese**  
 Sr. Director of  
 Development  
 & Engagement,  
 PDK International



**Kate Stephens**  
 Director of  
 Relationships  
 & Outreach,  
 PDK International



## EDUCATORS RISING COLLEGIATE LEVEL

This upcoming school year, PDK will be piloting an Educators Rising Collegiate level of membership designed specifically to support students as they make the transition from high school to college, and into classrooms of their very own. This year, we will work with pilot sites to gain feedback directly from students on the best structure, resources, and activities for this group, with the goal of launching a full program for school year 2019–2020. If you're interested in participating in this year's pilot program, please contact [lmefford@pdkintl.org](mailto:lmefford@pdkintl.org).

## 2018 EDUCATORS RISING CONFERENCE BREAKS RECORD

This past June, we hosted a record number of high school students and their teacher leaders from across the country in Orlando, Florida for four days of networking, learning, competing, and celebrating. More than 1,200 aspiring educators and their teacher leaders attended dynamic keynote speeches by education leaders such as National Teacher of the Year Mandy Manning,



participated in sessions on topics ranging from literacy to social justice, and competed in 19 different categories. The conference is generously supported by the PDK Educational Foundation, the PDK Board of Directors, and several conference sponsors and College and Innovation Exhibit Fair participants, including: Towson University, University of Central Florida's College of Education and Human Performance, Urban Teachers, and more.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH EDUCATORS RISING, VISIT [PDKINTERNATIONAL.ORG/HERITAGE](http://PDKINTERNATIONAL.ORG/HERITAGE).**

## MEET THE PDK TEAM: LESLIE MEFFORD

Leslie Mefford has been with PDK International since June 2000. As our Relationships and Outreach Manager, Leslie provides support to members across the country and globally.

Leslie enjoys the satisfaction of hearing a member say, "Thank you for explaining and taking the time to help me; you have really helped me understand." In her spare time, she loves to read, go hiking in state parks, and take Jeep rides with her husband and family. To learn more about Leslie, visit [pdkinternational.org/heritage](http://pdkinternational.org/heritage).



## ***PDK CHAPTER UPDATE***

### **A MESSAGE FROM JOSHUA P. STARR, ED.D, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PDK INTERNATIONAL**



We know a lot of members have questions about the role of chapters as PDK implements our transformation strategy. While we work to create new levels of support for educators, chapters still form the backbone of our membership. We count on our chapter leadership to extend the PDK mission at the local level by providing opportunities for members to network, engage in professional learning activities, and support local and regional education initiatives.

Since starting with us last year, our Director of Relationships and Outreach, Kate Stephens (kstephens@pdkintl.org), has been speaking regularly with chapter leaders to get a pulse on interests and needs, as well as reaching out to chapters regarding new recruitment tools. Over the coming months, we will continue to reach out to chapter leadership to gain feedback on the topics, resources, and formats that might best serve your local members to ensure that we are supporting our teaching community at both the national and local level. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Kate for support in any capacity. Additionally, I am happy to come out for an in-person visit whenever possible to meet directly with chapter leaders and members.

As the national office works to create new resources, we rely on chapters to utilize these resources to inform both members and their community at large so that they can more effectively enact change and advocate for the teaching profession. Thank you as always for your service and dedication to the values of PDK.



### **PI LAMBDA THETA STORE RELAUNCHED**

The Pi Lambda Theta store is now online! Visit [pilambda-store.myshopify.com](https://pilambda-store.myshopify.com) to pick up graduation merchandise such as cords and pins, and look for PLT apparel coming soon!



### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Our community of educators is our most valuable asset! Through our Educator Profiles survey, we are beginning to collect the stories of our members and learn about the impact they have had in the classroom.

Krishnia Rainey-Boateng is a Baltimore City Public Schools kindergarten teacher and PDK member. Teaching is a second career for Krishnia, who switched careers from architecture in 2007 out of a desire to improve social and economic mobility for kids through education. Krishnia says she “loves to integrate the arts into education and position my students as leaders and increase their agency.” Krishnia is a member of the Johns Hopkins University Chapter in Baltimore, where she has enjoyed the opportunity to mentor newer teachers.



## **DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR UPDATE**

In our last issue, we previewed the new honorific level of PDK membership designed to highlight the exceptional work of members who were tapped to join Phi Delta Kappa and are committed to advancing the values of PDK. We are now pleased to announce the impending launch of our new PDK Distinguished Educator level of membership! Qualifications are based around the three Phi Delta Kappa core values of Research, Service, and Leadership. Any current PDK member who demonstrates commitment to these values is invited to apply. Members who were inducted into PDK prior to 2002 are automatically eligible to receive this distinction. For more information on eligibility criteria and the benefits of becoming a Distinguished Educator, visit [pdkinternational.org/heritage](http://pdkinternational.org/heritage).

## **THANK YOU TO OUR READERS**

This past spring, more than 20 individuals answered our call to help review scholarship applications for the Prospective Educator Scholarship, the Pi Lambda Theta Student Support Scholarship, and the Advanced Degree Scholarship. Over the course of six weeks, these individuals reviewed and scored more than 475 scholarship applications online – a critical step in our scholarship award process. Thank you to the following individuals for volunteering with this important effort. With your help, we have been able to award more than 95 scholarships total this year between these three scholarship programs.

Mr. Phillip Boda  
Mr. Ronald Burmood  
Dr. Glenn Cason  
Ms. Rachel Church  
Mrs. Suzanne Connole  
Ms. Donna Cook  
Mr. Christian Ferguson  
Mr. James Fogarty  
Dr. Elizabeth Freeman  
Mrs. Jessica Gerschitz  
Ms. Maureen LaRaviere  
Mrs. Charlotte Layton

Ms. Jennifer Loetzerich  
Ms. Jennie Mathews  
Ms. Bernadine Moldoch  
Mr. Anthony Moyer  
Ms. Marlyn Press  
Mr. Daniel Quinn  
Dr. Summer Stephens  
Mr. Michael Travis  
Dr. Marrtje Van den Bogaard  
Mr. Howard Weant  
Ms. Amy White  
Dr. Patricia Williams

**INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A VOLUNTEER  
READER NEXT SPRING? EMAIL [SCHOLARSHIPS@  
PDKINTL.ORG](mailto:SCHOLARSHIPS@PDKINTL.ORG), AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO THE  
MAILING LIST.**

*"Thank you for this opportunity to review scholarship applications. It is such a treat to read these personal statements—they have helped me to reconnect with my purpose for teaching!"*



### **Dr. Elizabeth Freeman**

Assistant Superintendent of Innovative Learning,  
Teaching, and Technologies  
Fremont School District #79  
Mundelein, IL  
PDK Member Since 2005



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## **TIE PROUD TO SPONSOR PDK'S HERITAGE NEWSLETTER**

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The Trust for Insuring Educators (TIE) is proud to be the founding sponsor of the Heritage Newsletter.

TIE provides quality and affordable insurance products through PDK's Member Insurance Program, including plans for life insurance, professional liability, auto and home, dental, disability, long-term care, and many more.

TIE was formed in 1973 specifically to address the insurance needs of educators belonging to a select group of national professional associations. PDK was one of the first associations to join the trust, doing so in 1974. Today, more than 65 associations participate in the trust, with a combined membership exceeding 1 million. By pooling the buying power of these members, TIE can provide high-value insurance plans with features, benefits, and rates that are exclusive to TIE members. Visit [ftj.com/pdk](http://ftj.com/pdk) to check out what's available through PDK's Member Insurance Program.

### **APRIL 2018 COLP CONVENING**

The district leaders of our Community of Learning and Practice (CoLP) gathered this spring in Arlington, Virginia, for our 2nd annual systems-level leadership convening. The CoLP is part of our work to strengthen the capacity of state education systems and their leaders, which is being generously funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Dr. Phil Lee, University of the District of Columbia, delivered a presentation on the idea of critical race theory as a lens to understanding educational inequities. Dr. Meredith Honig, University of Washington College of Education, led a two-day facilitation around central office transformation, while Dr. Sonya Horsford, Columbia University and her team captured stories of our CoLP leaders and their learning to assess the effectiveness of CoLP offerings. We look forward to our continued partnership with all of our district leaders as we engage virtually throughout the summer and at our next in-person conference in fall 2018.

### **CELEBRATING TEACHER APPRECIATION MONTH**

In May, PDK invited members to celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Month by making a donation to PDK to support our Educators Rising division or to honor an exceptional educator in their lives. We look forward to sharing an update on this campaign's success and impact with you in our next newsletter.

### **PARTNERING WITH YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Education Partnerships, a division of PDK International, works with system-level leaders to navigate the complexity of school district transformation and improve teaching and learning through a social justice lens. We do this by customizing sustainable and equity-minded solutions through a variety of different offerings—our overall goal is to support YOU by implementing lasting change and designing impactful practices. Contact us at 571-335-1728 to learn more about our key offerings and how we can support your work.

# Phi Delta Kappan

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF KAPPAN

Throughout the year, we'll be reaching back into *Phi Delta Kappan's* archives and reflecting on how we've covered education's hot-button issues over the last century. Look for pieces describing how the conversation has evolved on topics such as school segregation, sex education, the K-12 curriculum, and the other themes planned for 2018–2019.

Retrospectives on these topics and more will be rolled out on the newly relaunched Kappan website, featuring a new look, new blogs, new content, and more. Take a look at [pdkinternational.org/heritage](http://pdkinternational.org/heritage).



## SAVE THE DATE

PDK will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools by hosting an event at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on Tuesday, September 25, 2018. The event will include a panel discussion to explore the results of the 2018 PDK Poll followed by a cocktail reception. To learn more about the event and RSVP to attend, contact Nicole David at [ndavid@pdkintl.org](mailto:ndavid@pdkintl.org).



## PDK Poll

50 YEARS OF AMERICAN VOICES

### EXPLORE 50 YEARS OF PDK POLL DATA

Explore the 50 years of the PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools by visiting [pdkpoll.org/timeline](http://pdkpoll.org/timeline), launching July 9, 2018. Rediscover the questions asked by the poll and revisit some of the key events in American education and the broader U.S. context. For example: Who started the PDK Poll and why? What questions were asked in the first poll in 1969? When did the poll begin asking questions about charter schools and choice? Why did the poll include that question? Each page offers a comment feature for you to share your thoughts and recollections about various events from the times.

To honor the history of the PDK Poll and ensure its continued independence, join the nearly 150 people who have made a donation of \$50 for 50 years. Make your donation online at [pdkintl.org/donate](http://pdkintl.org/donate) (enter your contribution amount under "PDK Education Poll Donation") or send a check to PDK. Gifts of all sizes are appreciated and will go toward supporting this essential resource.

## INTRODUCING TERESA PRESTON



Earlier this year, Teresa Preston joined the staff of PDK as Kappan magazine's managing editor. Teresa previously served as managing editor for *TD at Work* and *The Public Manager* at the Association for Talent Development. Before that, she was an associate editor of *Educational Leadership* at ASCD and an editor of the *Music Educators Journal* at the National Association for Music Education. In her role with *Kappan*, she helps select content for each issue, edits articles, and works with authors to ensure that their ideas are clear and compelling to readers. Teresa says, "I've long admired Kappan and am very happy to be part of the team that brings such essential thinking to educators. As we work on our 2018–19 issues, I'm excited to see what new insights our authors bring to such important topics as gender, segregation, equity, and the shape of the curriculum."

## PI LAMBDA THETA: FUNDRAISING UPDATE



In November 2017, we reached out to Pi Lambda Theta members across the country to invite their support for the Pi Lambda Theta Student Support Scholarship Program. This fund-raising campaign was special for many reasons, but especially because an anonymous Thetan agreed to match every donation to the Scholarship Program dollar-for-dollar.

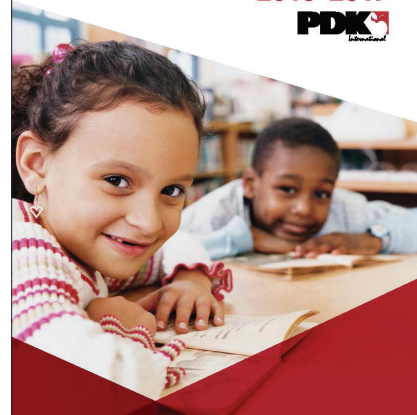
We wish to thank the more than 70 Thetans who responded to this campaign and together helped us raise \$14,282 for the Pi Lambda Theta Student Support Scholarship Program. Dollars raised go directly to supporting scholarships for Thetans pursuing higher education.

### CONSIDERING PLANNED GIVING?

Want to reduce the tax burden on your loved ones and support your favorite charity at the same time? Call us to learn how you can include PDK in your estate plans. Contact Katrina Breese at 571-335-0682.

PDK International & PDK Educational Foundation

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



## ANNUAL REPORT

The PDK International & PDK Educational Foundation annual report for 2016–2017 is available online. Visit [pdkinternational.org/heritage](http://pdkinternational.org/heritage) to read the report, which highlights our 2016–2017 achievements and the impact of our work. If you would like a hard copy, please contact Boosaba Tan at [btan@pdkintl.org](mailto:btan@pdkintl.org) or 571-814-5417.

### PDK WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Dr. Shayla L. Cornick,  
Director of  
Educators Rising

Joshuma Ford,  
Director of Finance

Michael Goldman,  
Membership Associate

Terrance Morrison,  
Program Coordinator/  
Membership Associate





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# What are they forgetting?

Do you know a new teacher? More than 90% of PDK members are career educators, and their work is strengthened by our network of professional educators, resources, and tools. Remind the new teachers in your life to join PDK today by calling 800-766-1156. Mention the promo code DontForget for 50% off a new professional membership before August 30th.