Join us in shaping the next generation of educators

For decades, PDK has worked to strengthen the teaching profession, not only by providing services and supports to the current generation of educators but also by encouraging young people to consider and plan for a career in education.

Since the launch of our Educators Rising Program five years ago, we have provided middle, high school, and college students with formative — and often inspiring — opportunities to learn about the work of educators and take initial steps toward joining the profession themselves.

Just as important, we have introduced these aspiring teachers to their future colleagues, as well as a network of practicing school administrators, teachers, and teacher educators, so that they can begin to establish a sense of belonging to the broader education community.

We’ve learned a lot over the last five years, and we want to share with you – our members, partners and champions – what our current focus is so that we can grow and strengthen Educators Rising and PDK far into the future.

Our new strategy rests on four prongs, and we need your help! We’ve focused on the following areas and can use your help identifying potential partners at the local level:

- **Potential teachers.** We always need help identifying and reaching out to students who have a passion for education. The Educators Rising movement has already brought together tens of thousands of students across the country, with the goal of developing a highly skilled, diverse teaching force that reflects their communities. *Does your school have an Educators Rising Chapter? If not, call us to find out how to start one.*

- **State officials.** The most successful Educators Rising programs have the support of their state departments of education, whose staff can provide guidance on how communities can “grow their own” teachers. *Do you know someone at your SDE who can support our work? If so, please make an introduction to CEO@pdkintl.org.*

Engaging educators and strengthening schools, so every student thrives.
• **Partners in higher education.** In recent years, every state in the country has seen falling enrollments in teacher preparation programs, sometimes as high as 50%. By setting up dual credit arrangements with local high schools, post-secondary partners can help future educators build strong momentum toward their college degree and teacher certification. *Do you know someone at your local community college or university who can support our work? If so, please make an introduction to [CEO@pdkintl.org](mailto:CEO@pdkintl.org).*

• **Family foundations and local supporters.** Every community, family, business, and advocacy group has a stake in supporting our next generation of educators. *Is there someone in your community who can help fund this work? Tell them about Educators Rising, or let us know about them so we can invite them to join us.*

As longtime PDK members, and as the Chair of the Board of Directors and the CEO, we’re committed to stewarding Educators Rising through the current turmoil in order to strengthen PDK for years to come. The urgency of COVID-19 cannot overshadow the importance of the need to keep empowering the next generation of diverse, compassionate and well-trained teachers. Educators Rising is uniquely positioned to develop a steady cadre of educators to insure our children’s and their children’s futures. We need your continued support, help and feedback in this journey; please stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

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