

PDK Connection – Heritage News

The Heritage Society recognizes individual donors whose estate planning includes support for the PDK Educational Foundation. In this new, bimonthly *Kappan* column, we celebrate the legacy and traditions of PDK International and give current and potential donors a glimpse of the people and programs who benefit from their generosity.

RAPID RESPONSE TO CONSTANT CHANGE

Whether their school district has opted to provide in-person instruction, virtual schooling, or a hybrid of the two, K-12 educators are working tirelessly to provide the instruction and support our students need. However, the challenges at hand are considerable. For teachers, children, and families alike, COVID-19 has brought constant change and uncertainty. For principals and other administrators, too, the pandemic has required quick thinking and difficult decisions, often without the benefit of solid information about educators' and students' most pressing needs. On this score, PDK and Educators Rising have made a real difference.

Every year, nearly 20,000 students who aspire to be teachers take part in Educators Rising. Additionally, thousands of educators — working in higher education, central offices, school administration, and classrooms — are members of PDK and Pi Lambda Theta. Over the past six months, we have checked in with these students and educators several times, surveying them about the many ways in which the present crisis has affected them. Further, we have analyzed their responses and reported them in a series of brief reports (available by request at <https://pdkintl.org/COVID19-Resources>) meant to inform school, district, and state leaders and as they make important decisions about how best to serve students in the weeks and months ahead.

Our next step is to launch our Rapid Response project, which will enable us to survey students and educators as soon as conditions change in K-12 education and consequential decisions have to be made. Currently, we are recruiting volunteers willing to weigh in within 24 hours on urgent questions as soon as they arise, allowing us to create a survey, gather responses, and report the results, so that we can share timely insights with decision makers. (In addition to volunteering for this role, please consider providing financial support to help us make this resource available.)

SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Your gift will reach more than 100,000 current and future educators throughout their career, by guiding young people on the path to becoming accomplished educators and supporting leaders and academics who seek to leave a lasting legacy. Your support will help PDK elevate and change the narrative about public education, inform the national discourse, and bridge research and practice. Donation options include cash gifts, stocks and securities, legacy giving, and more. Give today by using the donation cards included in this issue on page 4 and 68. Contact us at give@pdkintl.org or 800-766-1156.

PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

By joining the PDK Heritage Society, you will help ensure that future generations of educators will be well prepared to provide their students with outstanding educational experiences. To leave a gift in your will, simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner: "I bequeath \$____ or ____% of my estate to PDK International, P.O. Box 13090, Arlington, VA 22219."

THANK YOU TO OUR HERITAGE MEMBERS

- | | |
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THANK YOU TO OUR HERITAGE NEWS SUPPORTER



**Trust for
Insuring Educators**



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jose Carrillo

Hometown: Dallas, TX

School: Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

I am excited to serve as an Educators Rising National Student Officer because I love creating connections with people across the nation who have similar passions to me! I am passionate about education because I want to help bring about societal change and increase diversity in education so students of

color can relate to someone who looks like them and understands their struggles.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Cedric Price

Hometown: Rahway, NJ

School: George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

I learned early in my childhood that I wanted to become a teacher. Ever since elementary school, I have been engaged in after-school programs and summer camps. I have learned that the education one receives goes beyond the traditional school schedule. These experiences have encouraged me in my

decision to become an educator, specifically in districts that need the most support, where I can focus on helping students most in need to succeed. Educators make the difference in our students year-round, and I want to do just that.



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Randall Schmalz

PDK Distinguished Educators exemplify the core values of the PDK Association – a commitment to research, service, and leadership. One of our most distinguished educators, Dr. Randall Schmalz recalls how surprised and honored he was when invited to join in 1980, when some of his friends were not. Dr. Schmalz is a member of the University Systems of Maryland and Johns Hopkins chapter, and a PDK lifetime

member. In addition to his years of service to education, he has established the Schmalz Family Fund, which promotes and funds the George J. & Jessie M. Schmalz Scholarship for a high school student with financial need who plans to pursue a career in education. Plus, he enjoys playing Santa Claus in his community! For more information on how to set up your own scholarship or become recognized as a PDK Distinguished Educator, visit pdkintl.org/heritage.



CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Every year, the Greater San Antonio Chapter of PDK International offers an endowed scholarship — the Educators Rising Leadership Award — to a high school student who exhibits outstanding leadership among their peers and in their community. At the 2019 National Educators Rising Conference in Dallas, chapter president Laura Petersen and treasurer Kazia Estrada presented the award to Katilyn Piston from Virginia Beach, Virginia.



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