

PDK Connection – Heritage News

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



KEYNOTE SPEAKER WADE OWLETT INSPIRES RISING EDUCATORS AT VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Educators Rising, the premier national career and technical education program for aspiring educators, held its annual national conference virtually in June. More than 1,200 future and current educators attended to connect and learn about their chosen profession, and, of those, more than 750 students showcased their teaching skills in national competitions.

Students were especially enthusiastic about the Saturday keynote

speaker, Wade Owlett, the 2018-19 National Rural Educator of the Year. He opened with a story of how his own childhood trauma motivated him to become a teacher: "When I was about 8 years old, I was struggling in school. I had convinced myself and apparently my teachers that I was unworthy of help. But when I moved schools, Mrs. Mickey didn't see a broken boy. She gave me hope when I couldn't find it myself. And I believe Mrs. Mickey saved my life." Owlett went on to describe how the best teachers craft shared experiences with students, cultivate an environment that is safe for everyone, and bring value into the world beyond the classroom.

One Ed Rising student reflected, "Wade's story is a prime example of how teachers can create an everlasting impact on students and eventually build them into the leaders they are today. This is what education is all about!"

As we look back on our 2021 conference, we're already gearing up to make next year's in-person event bigger and better! The 2022 Educators Rising National Conference is scheduled to take place **June 24-27, 2022**, in Washington, D.C. Learn how you and your students can get involved at educatorsrising.org.

SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Your gift will reach more than 100,000 current and future educators throughout their careers, 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. Contact us at give@pdkintl.org or 800-766-1156. PDK recommends using some form of tracking for donations over \$1,000 or for substantial amounts that are being sent by mail.

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."

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Jose Carrillo

Hometown: Dallas, TX

School: Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

The 2020-21 Educators Rising Student President Jose Carrillo reflects on his experience in Educators Rising: "Growing up, I always felt the need to create an impact on people and society.

Now, as a first-generation college student, that feeling is becoming a reality through the things that I have been able to achieve the past few years. Thanks to the PDK Foundation Scholarship, I am currently studying history education in hopes of becoming a high school social studies teacher and creating an impact not only on students, but the education system as a whole."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Zhane McCorvey

Hometown: Maple Heights, OH

School: Heights Career Tech Teacher Academy, Maple Heights, OH

Zhane McCorvey is the Educators Rising 2021-22 national student officer president. During his tenure, he hopes to increase teacher

diversity and ensure everyone knows the power of teaching.

At just 16 years old, McCorvey founded FAIR, a nonprofit organization that fights racial and social injustice, and as its CEO, he created a scholarship in his grandmother's name for African American teens who are making an effort to inspire change in their community and the world.

He is also president of the class of 2022, an executive ambassador of the Students of Promise chapter, and a trumpet player in the marching band at Maple Heights High School. He would like to attend Tennessee State University and major in education with a minor in political science.



HERITAGE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mary Eve Proffitt

One of PDK's most active Heritage Members is Mary Eve Proffitt. She is a platinum member of the George H. Reavis Society for members who give at least \$25,000 in total gifts, a former PDK International president (2001, 2003), and a former member of the foundation board (2010-2015). Since 2010, she's served as the

director of educational innovation at the University of Kentucky's P20 Innovation Lab. She continues to stay involved with PDK, most recently as a volunteer judge at the 2019 and 2021 Educators Rising National Conferences.

IN MEMORIAM

Jo Ann Fujioka 1939-2021

Former PDK International president (2006-2008) Jo Ann Fujioka passed away on July 6, 2021. During World War II, she was interned, along with her family and more than 100,000 other Japanese Americans, in the Poston, Arizona, internment camp. This experience inspired her to become a champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Jo Ann was passionate about education and educators. For more than 20 years, she worked in the Jefferson County School District (Colorado) as the central area manager for special education and related services. Besides serving as PDK president, she was also director of the National PTA and president of the Denver PTA. Throughout her life, she remained dedicated to public service, advocacy for the education of children, and serving her country, her state, and national and local educational organizations. PDK is grateful for her life of service.



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