

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.

RESPONSIBILITY OF AN EDUCATOR: KNOW THYSELF AND REFLECT OFTEN

Katie Harrison has been an educator for almost 20 years. She was a middle school science teacher for many of those years and has just started her fourth year as a secondary science specialist in her district. She has degrees in science, curriculum and instruction, and organizational leadership.

Harrison spoke at Educators Rising National Conference 2021 in a session that she titled “Responsibility of an educator: Know thyself and reflect often.” She views self-reflection as something that is powerful for personal growth and learning and something most of us spend too little time focusing on. She also believes that teachers don’t always realize just how skilled they are and how much they can accomplish and, she says, “Reflective practices are the key for increasing that self-awareness and ideally raising self-efficacy.” Growth in those two areas among teachers, she believes, will have them bring about “deeper learning experiences for students.”

Her experience as a conference speaker was incredibly meaningful, and connecting with future teacher leaders enabled her to reflect on her own experiences in education. From the students, she learned that reflection is rarely spoken about in the classroom. They had not thought about the power it could have for their future professional lives.

The 2022 National Conference will take place **June 24-27** in Washington, D.C. Learn how you can get involved in the Educators Rising movement and lead a conference session at educatorsrising.org.



SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Your gift will reach more than 100,000 current and future educators throughout their careers, 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. 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.”

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STUDENT OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

Courtney Ashton

Hometown: Somerset, KY

School: Pulaski County High School,
Science Hill, KY

Meet Courtney Ashton, the 2021-2022 Educators Rising National Vice President of Programs. A senior at Pulaski County High School, she plans to be an English as a second language teacher for elementary students, is passionate about equal rights, and strives to be a leader for all those around her. She has served as her school's EdRising chapter president for three years and was a 2020-21 national ambassador.

She chose to join EdRising because she wants to make a difference in the world, and she says, "EdRising has taught me that student voice is important, and we can be a voice for change in the education system. I challenge you to stand up for what you believe in."



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Enyioha

School: Texas State University

Jessica Enyioha is a social justice advocate who works to empower all students, especially those who have never been told that they can attend college and pursue a career. Her philosophy is to lift as she climbs, and she's dedicated her career to building the next generation of diverse leaders. She has continued to further her education in the School Improvement Doctoral Program at Texas State while she assists in closing the opportunity gaps between students from privileged and underserved communities. Her

research interests include college access for underserved students, community development, and educational policy. With the significant support of the Pi Lambda Theta Student Support Scholarship, she is set to graduate in May.



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Mary Jane Carreno

Mary Jane Carreno, an adjunct professor of education and supervisor of student teachers, has taught for 51 years, has been an active member of PDK for 40 years, and has served as the Phi Delta Kappa awards chair since 2014. She earned a doctorate in curriculum and a master's of education-administrative leadership from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and currently lives in Racine, Wisconsin.

Carreno believes that for a student to construct knowledge, they need the opportunity to discover and practice skills in authentic situations. Providing each student with access to hands-on activities and allowing adequate time and space for them to use materials that reinforce the lesson being studied creates an opportunity them to learn through individual discovery. One of her hopes as an educator is to instill a love in learning in each student as she shares her own passion for learning with them.

Learn more about becoming a PDK Distinguished Educator at pdkintl.org/distinguished.



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