

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.



PLANNING TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

In 2020, \$71.34 billion was donated to K-12 schools, institutions of higher education, and libraries (Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2021). Many of these donations are used for classroom supplies and professional development for educators (Victor, 2018), which, while important, do not necessarily contribute to the long-term improvement of the education system. That is where PDK International comes into play — with your support.

Since 1906, PDK International has worked to strengthen the teaching profession by providing evidence-based resources, services, and supports to the current generation of educators. Donations to PDK International allow us to continue this work and enhance our programs that focus on long-term solutions to national education issues. One important strategy is the development of the next generation of educators. Educators Rising's grow-your-own program helps schools and districts recruit new educators from within their own communities. Students can take courses to learn more about the education profession while they are in high school, become further prepared in a teacher preparation program at a local institution of higher education, and return to teach in the school district they graduated from.

By donating to PDK International, you can have a real impact on the more than 7,500 students nationwide who are currently engaged in Educators Rising and the more than 8,000 Phi Delta Kappa members helping to bridge the gap between research, policy, and practice. We encourage you to consider a donation to PDK International to help us continue our work of shaping the future of the education profession. Visit members.pdkintl.org/donate-now to learn more.

References

Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. (2021, June 15). *Giving USA 2021: In a year of unprecedented events and challenges, charitable giving reached a record \$471.44 billion in 2020*. Indiana University.

Victor, D.V. (2018, April 21). Want to help schools and students? Here's how to start. *The New York Times*.

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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**Trust for
Insuring Educators**

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CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

University of Arkansas

The University of Arkansas Educators Rising chapter made donations to two local Northwest Arkansas schools for the 2021 holiday season. "The schools sent us their Amazon wish lists with their high-need items, and our chapter was able to purchase almost every single item that they requested. It was a safe and effective way to purchase items without having to stress about COVID and all of the moving parts that would be involved if we were to all go out and purchase gifts individually to bring to the school. Overall, this was an amazing experience that our collegiate group is very proud of," said Parker Evatt, chapter president.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SPOTLIGHT

Gregory Jackson

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

School: Northcentral University

"My goal is to acquire my doctorate of education and help curtail the flow of our African American boys through the school-to-prison pipeline. I want to work on a national level with educational and legal organizations to put policies in place that will help redirect this tragic phenomenon. I'm confident that with my continued education, I will be equipped to tackle this issue and contribute positively to society."

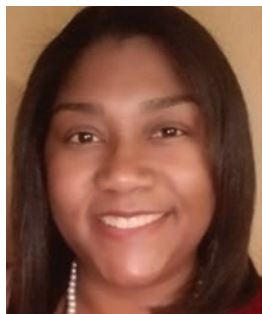


Tory Porter

Hometown: Heber, UT

School: Southern Utah University

"I have a strong belief in the power of education. Of course learning is important, but I think we often forget that learning can't happen without a teacher. I have been inspired and changed as a human so many times because of the educators in my own life. I want to be able to inspire and change lives just like my teachers have. With this scholarship, I am one step closer to making that dream a reality. I can't wait to jump into the classroom and start sharing my passion for art, education, and life. I am so grateful for this opportunity!"



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Alissa M. Ross

A practicing educator since 2003, Alissa M. Ross is now an assistant professor at her alma mater, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and an active participant in community service. Regarding her teaching philosophy, Ross shared: "I believe teaching should be student-centered, engaging, and inspiring. I also believe teachers should collaborate with each other in order to make learning enjoyable. In addition, I believe teachers should stay abreast of the latest trends in education; therefore, we

should participate in professional development regularly. Lastly, our learning environments should make all students feel safe and valued." She encourages anyone interested in becoming an educator to "begin listing characteristics of the 'ideal' classroom he or she would like to create for their future students."

To learn more about becoming a PDK Distinguished Educator, visit pdkintl.org/distinguished.



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