

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.

EDUCATORS RISING ALUM INSPIRES STUDENTS AT CONFERENCE

Tamir Harper is a self-described advocate for equal and quality education in urban schools, as well as an alum of the Educators Rising program. During the 2017-18 school year, when he was a senior at the Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia, Harper served as Educators Rising national vice president. Now, after graduating from American University in May, he will realize his dream of becoming a lead teacher in Philadelphia for the 2022-23 school year. During his journey to the classroom, he was named a Frederick Douglas Distinguished Scholar and was the 61st eastern regional vice president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He also has delivered several speeches sharing his inspirational story.

PDK International's Educators Rising program was proud to welcome Harper back as a keynote speaker at the 2022 Educators Rising National Conference in Washington, D.C., on June 26. This year's conference drew almost 1,900 current and future educators. Attendees heard Harper's story of being a first-generation college student and how his own experiences seeing that white students in his high school were taking different classes from students of color shaped his desire to promote equity in education and make sure students have teachers whose backgrounds are similar to their own.



Harper reminded the students listening to his speech that "Each and every one of you will enter a classroom and teach the next Supreme Court justice, the next chief of staff, and the next group of educators, who will carry the torch." His message embodied the conference theme of Shaping the Future.

The next Educators Rising National Conference will take place in Orlando, Florida, June 29 to July 2, 2023.

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

Mary Kathryn Gebhart

Hometown: Gahanna, Ohio

Mary Kathryn Gebhart officially assumed the role of 2022-23 Educators Rising national vice president of programs at the 2022 Educators Rising national Conference. As a student at Gahanna Lincoln High School and the Teaching Professions Program at Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools, she participated in the theater program and was a member of the Hope Squad, an organization focused on mental health. Her favorite part of working with students is “the ability to let children know that it’s OK to be different and be yourself.” Currently in her first year at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, she plans to become a special education teacher when she graduates.



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Robert Williams

At 89, Robert T. Williams was nominated for the governor of North Carolina’s highest civilian honor: the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for lifetime service to citizens of the Tar Heel state. He has achieved national recognition for his wide-ranging, innovative ideas for addressing the drain of math and science teachers from public education, repeatedly stating, “there’s not one single cause, so there needs to be more than one solution.”

In the 1980s, the North Carolina legislature created a scholarship program paying the full tuition for students agreeing to teach at least two years of math in North Carolina public schools after graduation. Williams, then president of the North Carolina Association of Teacher Educators, served as the liaison between the state board of education and the colleges administering the program.

Through his work, 40 students have received scholarships since 1991 from the Clarence Poe Endowed Scholarship Fund at North Carolina State University’s College of Education and Psychology, where associate dean emeritus Williams served as scholarship committee chairman.



Great Public Schools for Every Child

THANK YOU TO THE NEA FOR BEING A GENEROUS PARTNER OF PDK INTERNATIONAL

In June, the National Education Association (NEA) and PDK International deepened an already

existing partnership to inspire the next generation of highly effective educators. The two organizations agreed to work together on combined offerings. In the past, PDK International has worked with NEA on such initiatives as the Educators Rising Curriculum, and the NEA has provided generous conference sponsorship, including being a platinum-level sponsor of the 2022 Educators Rising National Conference.

In honor of their support, the NEA’s senior director of the Center for Great Public Schools, Andy Coons, was presented with an Educators Rising Champion Award for Partners on behalf of NEA at the conference.

“We are excited that so many more students will benefit from the combined offerings of NEA’s Aspiring Educators and PDK’s Educators Rising. This partnership allows students time and space to find their calling within education and helps districts and colleges find their next generation of educators from within their own communities,” said Albert Chen, acting chief executive officer for PDK International.



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Contact PDK

Phone 800-766-1156
Fax 812-339-0018
memberservices@pdkintl.org

Mailing address

P.O. Box 13090
Arlington, VA 22219