



LOCATION:

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Remarks by Albert C. Chen, Acting Chief Executive Officer of PDK International, and Jose Carrillo, Senior at Texas State University and 2020-2021 Educators Rising National President, at the #HerefortheKids Campaign Launch Event in Partnership with the Learning First Alliance

10:00 AM EDT

ALBERT C. CHEN: PDK and Educators Rising are here for the kids because they need role models that reflect the communities that they are in. We are here for the kids because we need to inspire kids to serve the communities as educators. We are here for the kids because we need to provide opportunities like the Educators Rising National Conference to meet other like-minded kids to get recognized and fulfill their calling in the face of overwhelming odds in the media.

Once you see two-thousand kids at Nationals, the best of their best empowered and passionate about education – competing – well, it's inspiring.

I have this story of this kid I met at Nationals where he didn't even know that teaching was a possibility until his teacher tapped him and asked him whether or not education was right for him. This kid ended up leaving his own gang, got into Berkeley and became a teacher.

We are here for the kids because we make a difference in kids' lives. We create programs that excite and empower them with proven curriculum and leadership opportunities to succeed and stay in the field. We are here for the kids because they need to be part of this movement so they can become the role models for the next generation of kids.

So yes, PDK is here for the kids.

10:28 AM EDT

JOSE CARRILLO: PDK International and Educators Rising are here for the kids! Through our student leadership model, we ensure that we are here for the kids by allowing them to share their voices and make useful contributions to the world of education.

As a former National Student President, Educators Rising showed to me that they are here for the kids by providing me a platform to talk about the matters that I cared most about and made me realize the importance of using my voice as a young leader. Having the opportunity to use my voice through Educators

Rising showed other students of color that they have the potential to lead a great organization and advocate for what they care for.

Now, working with younger generations of future educators, we continue to be here for the kids through engagement and advocacy with student officers and our student ambassadors who help the great work along our organization. The efforts of our student officers inspiring other students through social media engagement, building relationships with other student officers, speaking to crowds of over 2,000 peers, providing community service projects, and providing student perspectives at professional events shows that we are all here for the kids. Our annual student-led National Conference gives students the opportunity to show their creativity and best talents through our competition model where they can create or present lessons, books, and speeches all revolving education.

While they may not realize it right away, the work that our kids do will leave an everlasting impact on education in our country and their communities. Here at Educators Rising, we emphasize that we are not only here for the kids, but showing those same kids that the work they do at such young ages shows that they are also here for the kids that will take on their torch. Thank you.

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