

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.



SCIENCE TEACHER AT HEART LOOKS BACK AT 50 YEARS AS PHI DELTA KAPPA MEMBER

Ronald Laugen of The Woodlands, Texas, who celebrated 50 years as a Phi Delta Kappa member on Nov. 20, 2021, has always considered himself a science teacher at heart, no matter where else his educational career has taken him.

Laugen first became a chemistry teacher in the 1963-64 school year while completing his master's degree in science education. At the time, he was taking part in CHEM-Study, a chemistry course funded by the National Science Foundation that, according to Laugen, "taught chemistry the way chemists think about it." He went on to teach both high school and junior high science for seven years while mentoring other teachers.

Like many Phi Delta Kappa members, he eventually moved into administration. After earning his doctorate, he worked on science curriculum projects that included individualized modules, interactive videodiscs, and science modules organized around societal issues. "The feather in my professional life cap was becoming the administrator of a magnet STEM high school program for 14 years. In this job, I was able to apply everything I had been doing and learned with our staff, program, and students."

Retirement did not mean slowing down for Laugen as he now is consulting and training with his district through a Regional Education Service center.

"After having worn many different hats in my long career as a teacher, a curriculum developer, science coordinator, administrator, and teacher trainer, I'm proud to have had PDK and *Kappan* as valuable resources by my side," Laugen said.

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

Keiren Minter

Hometown: Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Keiren Minter is the 2022-23 Educators Rising national vice president of service. He is a perfect choice for this new position because he has a long history of service both inside Watson Chapel High School, where he is a senior this year, and in the surrounding community of Pine Bluff. Since 2015, when he volunteered at the Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas, he has grown into a leader. Minter was instrumental in starting the Educators Rising chapter at his high school and is

always looking for ways to introduce more people in his community to the program. He also has been a regular contributor to *Kappan's* new Students Speak Up column.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Caprice Damon

Hometown: Wasilla, Alaska

Alaska has been a strong presence at Educators Rising National Conferences in recent years, and last year was no exception. At the 2022 Educators Rising National Conference, Caprice Damon, a graduating senior from Joe Reddington Sr. Jr./Sr. High School, took home second place in Creative Lecture (TED Talk). Having competed in the competition all four years, this was her third time placing in the top 10 nationally.

She wants to become a teacher because of her Educators Rising teacher leader, Christel Mozalevskiy (Mrs. Mozy to her students). Damon said that Mrs. Mozy “has helped me widen my perspective and realize that many students may not have teachers in their lives who build them up and make them want to come to school.” Reflecting on her own experiences, she said, “I have had so many teachers that have helped me get through school, and I truly want to leave an impact on at least one student’s life.”

PDK International is happy to support students from all corners of the United States as they pursue college to continue their dreams of teaching in their own classrooms.



EDUCATORS RISING CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

Debra McDonald

**Wayne County School Career Center
Smithville, Ohio**

Debra McDonald is a true advocate for Educators Rising in Ohio. Besides being a teacher leader for a large chapter, she has recruited and trained volunteer judges for Ohio’s state-level competitions, promoted Educators Rising Ohio at statewide professional meetings, and served as the face of Educators Rising at the ground level. For her efforts, McDonald was named one of the inaugural Educators Rising Champions at the 2022 Educators Rising National Conference.



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