

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 supported by their generosity.

STUDENT VOICE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT EDUCATORS RISING CONFERENCE

As a student-led organization, PDK International's Educators Rising program always has encouraged students to speak on issues they believe in. Student officers and other student leaders have presented at conferences, participated in panel discussions, and been featured in webinars. At the 2023 Educators Rising National Conference, the organization added another opportunity for student voice: the first-ever student delegate meeting.

Held on July 1, the meeting convened 80 students from every state where Educators Rising has a state/regional coordinator, which marks an official full state presence. They discussed and voted on various proposals, including a new Educators Rising tagline — **Forming Future Leaders** — and next year's conference theme — **Discovering Your Potential**. These themes will shape PDK International's efforts for the 2023-24 school year and beyond.

"Seeing the students go up to the microphone and talk about things that they care about was one of the most inspiring moments of the conference for me," said Jose Carrillo, PDK International's membership development associate, who works with the organization's student leadership and is himself a former national student officer.

"We only had 10 minutes of discussion planned in the agenda and had to cut off students since the discussion was so great," Carrillo added.

A new group of student leaders also was selected for the 2023-24 academic year: Milan Aranda, Brooke Hess, Hailey Calderon, and Taylor Jenkins. The four young people from across the country will be leading the push for the inclusion of students' voices in matters of importance to the education community. One student will be featured in each edition of the Heritage Newsletter this year, starting with National Student President Milan Aranda.



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

Milan Aranda, National Student President
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

Milan Aranda, last year's Nebraska Educators Rising President, has had a passion for education since she was young, which Educators Rising only strengthened. "I have been able to see many educators speak and share their stories and tips for when I have my own classroom," she says of her experience in the organization. In the upcoming year, her goals include increasing the organization's involvement in community service projects, finding ways to award educators and advisers, and allowing the student leadership to do as many in-person school visits as possible.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Kaitlyn Hannah
Hometown: Greenup, Kentucky

Having started at Kentucky's Morehead State University this school year to pursue a degree in education, Kaitlyn Hannah is the recipient of the 2023-24 Ladder to Opportunity Scholarship. Throughout high school, Hannah showed a commitment to service, participating in various clubs and organizations that sponsored fundraisers and drives for different causes and volunteering at local community centers. Her honors included being named a 2022 Kentucky Governor's Scholar, an academic honor, and placing first in Educators Rising's state public speaking competition in Kentucky her senior year. "Although I come from a small town, I have big dreams," Hannah says.



EMERGING LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Kathryn E. Wiley
Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia

Kathryn E. Wiley is an assistant professor at the Howard University School of Education in Washington, D.C. Having started her career working with middle and high school youth groups, designing education programs and service trips, Wiley discovered "how important it is that young people understand their ability to impact their schools and local communities positively." During the 2021-22 school year, she supported 10 undergraduate students in developing a yearlong project to improve communication and outreach between her local school district's board of education and high school students in the area.



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