

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.

SEASONED EDUCATORS IMPART WISDOM THROUGH NATIONAL CONFERENCE JUDGING

Patty Lofgren, a PDK member since 2010 and classroom teacher for 26 years, serves as the director of professional development at the Mathematics Education Collaborative based in Portland, Oregon. There, she develops and delivers courses that help educators examine and refine their classroom practice so that every student can feel “mathematically powerful.” In addition, for one week every summer for the past seven years, she has reached out to teachers not yet in the classroom by serving as a judge for the Lesson Planning & Delivery – STEM competition at the Educators Rising National Conference.

Educators Rising offers nearly 30 competitions and contests for students to compete in at the local, state, and national levels. These competitions are designed to help students practice classroom skills while still in high school and be critiqued and scored by current educators who serve as judges. Each competition requires two or three judges from the professional community.

Judges attend the conference free and can participate in any sessions that take place when they are not judging (although they must cover their own lodging and transportation expenses). But the benefits go beyond the sessions themselves. Lofgren says, “I leave each conference inspired by the work the students and their mentors have done together.”

Like many PDK members, Lofgren had not heard about the work of Educators Rising when she joined PDK. She joined because “I found PDK to be the most relevant and inclusive organization for me as an educator.” As a PDK member, she received a scholarship for a summer educational trip to Amsterdam and Paris, and on that trip she learned about EdRising and was inspired to volunteer. She said, “We desperately need to attract more teachers into the profession, and we need to provide students with more teachers who look like them.”

Many judges return for multiple conferences like Lofgren has. But more judges are always needed in both English and Spanish language competitions. For more information and to apply, please visit <https://educatorsrising.org/conference-competitions/>. The application deadline is March 1.

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

Taylor Jenkins

Hometown: Seaford, Delaware

Taylor Jenkins, the 2023-24 Educators Rising vice president of service, is a freshman at the University of Delaware, after serving as a leader in multiple organizations throughout high school. Many people have told her that her caring heart and selfless actions make a difference to people around her, and she looks to apply those attributes in her role with Educators Rising. Jenkins

aims to strengthen the organization by connecting with members and ensuring they feel supported. When visiting chapters across the state while serving in a similar state-level position in Delaware, she realized “that the strength of our organization lies within our connection to each other. When our members feel they truly have a place in the organization, they are more likely to perform better and recommend it to those around them.”



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPOTLIGHT

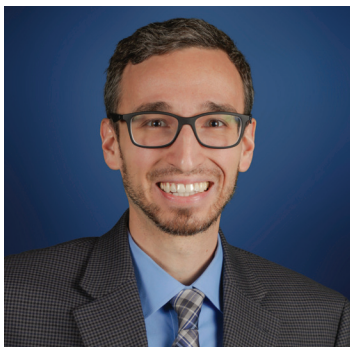
McKenna Seay

**Donald H. and Verna S. Duncan
Endowed Scholarship**

Hometown: Springfield, VA

McKenna Seay has been an active member of PDK International’s Educators Rising Collegiate program since 2020. While pursuing her bachelor’s degree in integrative studies and a master’s degree in elementary education at George Mason University, she organized a workshop on resili-

ence and well-being to help teach future educators about strategies to address burnout. Since 2021, she has been a substitute teacher at Fairfax County Schools. “I have stepped into many classrooms and witnessed various pedagogies. I have been eager to learn more about the science behind the experiences, and I am excited to do so as I pursue my master’s degree,” she said, “I am very grateful to be chosen as a scholarship recipient.”



EMERGING LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Alexander Uryga

Hometown: Cambridge, MA

Coming from an extensive background in public affairs, Alexander Uryga is now changing lives as a social studies and math teacher after earning a master’s of education in teaching and curriculum from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. “For the students’ is a motto that was ingrained in my thinking as an educator at The Cambridge Matignon School. I took up this mindset as a social studies teacher who is in direct contact

with students every single day because I truly believe in it. As politicians should be ‘for the people,’ educators should be ‘for the students.’” In 2022, Uryga was honored with the Richard Aieta Promising Teacher Award from the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies and has participated in multiple fellowship programs.



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