



PDK *Update*

Fall 2003

Phi Delta Kappa
George Mason
Chapter 1368

From the President Georganna Schell

Happy New Year!! August and September may seem a little early for this salutation but this is the time of year that we as educators celebrate our academic "New Year". Just as we celebrate with friends and family on the first of January, the beginning of each school year provides us with an opportunity to say good bye to the old and joyfully anticipate the new. Unlike many other professions we are lucky enough to get this opportunity each year to begin anew. We get a chance to review what we have accomplished and start the school year refreshed and renewed. Each year brings change so we may have new students, colleagues, administration, subjects or classrooms. And we will have new challenges but also new opportunities. It truly is a time for celebration.

In addition, a New Year celebration provides a time for reflection and gives us a chance to set new goals. Therefore as the new school year approaches I would encourage you to take some time and reflect on the mission of Phi Delta Kappa, "to promote quality education as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life by providing innovative programs, relevant research, visionary leadership, and dedicated service". Think about how you can apply this mission to your own individual setting. Think about how you can incorporate research, leadership and service, into your classroom or office. Take some time to set your "PDK New Year Resolutions".

I hope that one of your resolutions has been to become an active member of your PDK chapter. This is easily accomplished by attending and participating in our meetings. I hope that you will resolve to share with and learn from your PDK colleagues and friends. We are a unique, diverse and growing group. We come from many school districts along with George Mason University. We represent all levels of schooling and many areas of concentration. But we need you! Mark the meeting dates on your calendar and make them a priority.

I hope that you have had a safe, healthy and productive summer and are re-energized as you begin the new school year. And in closing I wish you all a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!

News Flash

Fran Wilson, a member of the George Mason Chapter, has been selected to be the commandant, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Fort McNair, DC. Fran, who holds four masters degrees (in education, psychology (guidance counseling), business management, and National Security and Strategic Studies) and a Doctor of Education. Additional BIO information can be found on the USM website ([Marine General Officer BIOs](#)). Congratulations, Fran!!!!

Our Meeting Dates

Here are the meeting dates for the upcoming year. Please make these dates sacred on your calendar. All meetings will be held in the Johnson Center at the GMU campus. Ask and the information desk for the Education Leadership meeting (not PDK) and they will direct you to the meeting room. At this point the meetings are scheduled to be in Room G on the third floor but things can change at the last minute.

We begin convening at 4:30 p.m. And as always, we serve heavy hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, beer and wine before our meeting. Join us for the social time before the official meeting begins.

<u>Board</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Nov. 5	Nov. 13
Jan. 14	Jan. 22
Feb. 12	
Mar. 3	Mar. 11
Apr. 12	Apr. 22
May 5	May 20 (Initiation of new members)
June 2	June 10

Thanks to Greg Hutchings who has organized the following programs for the upcoming meetings:

November 13

"Building a Professional Learning Community", Jim Hannon, Falls Church High School

January 22

"Scholarship and Teaching", Dr. John O'Connor, Dean, New Century College, GMU

March 11

"Advocacy, Engagement, Collaboration - What leaders in Education should know about working with Member Associations and Unions", Brad Dreager, HR Fairfax County Public School and Ken Reinshuttle (FEA)

April 22

"Diversity", August Bullock, Director of Multicultural Education, Prince William Public Schools

Do you have an area of interest that you would like to hear more about? Do you have an area of expertise that you would like to share with your colleagues? We are always looking for new ideas and resources for upcoming programs. If you can help see Greg Hutchings at one of our meetings or contact him via email (hutchings1906@aol.com).

Welcome!

2003-2004 Executive Board

President	Georganna Schell , gschell@arlington.k12.va.us
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Welcome to our 2003 initiates!

Feel free to contact any of us with questions or input. An active membership and good communication between use will allow us to grow!

Kathy Aderholt	Kelly Thaddew Barr	Roger S. Baskin
Terri Breyman	Stephanie C. DiSanto	Caryn W. Engel
Danielle M. Freese	Amy Harris	William T. Horan
Dora Howard	Timothy Kasik	Zora Marschall
Cindy Mizelle	Susan L. Stickles	Anne Stokowski
Diane Walker	Brad Davis	Kari Arfstrom
William Warrick	Stacy Connors	Margaret Couture
Theresa Beasley	Ruth Dffenbaugh	Nora Mulhorn
Gina Marie Corbit-Rice	Della Kidd	

Current Issues from our Research Representative:

Administrator Quality

Submitted by Farnoosh Shahrokhi

A critical problem threatening our education system is the shortage of qualified principals and school leaders across the country. In the recent years, school districts nationwide have been faced with fewer candidates for various leadership openings. At the same time, many current principals are reaching retirement age and leaving our schools without qualified leaders to replace them. Statistics indicate that 40 percent of principals will retire within the next three years. There is an even greater need to address the shortages of qualified candidates to administer schools in urban communities, due to the special challenges they face in leading highly diverse student population.

There is widespread evidence of the principal shortages across the board. The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) commissioned Educational Research Service (ERS) to conduct an exploratory study of experiences of school districts in recruiting principals to fill their vacancies. In the resulting publication, *Is There a Shortage of Qualified Candidates for Openings in the Principalship? An Exploratory Study*, half of school districts reported a shortage of qualified candidates. A follow-up study was requested from NAESP and NASSP from ERS that resulted in the report, *The Principal, Keystone of a High-Achieving School: Attracting and Keeping the Leaders We Need*.

This comprehensive report, investigated the leadership shortage and reasons attributing to this problem while providing an overview of programs designed to address aspects of the shortage. In addition the report provides a brief overview of the extensive research documenting the strong link between quality principals and high-performing schools. The position that a high-performing school is reflective of a quality leader is supported by this report as well as other documented research (Cawelti, 1999; Hallinger & Heck, 1996; Lake et al., 1999, Teske & Schneider, 1999).

In addition to the shortages, there is clear evidence that the leaders we need for tomorrow's schools have to be instructional leaders who maintain a focus on teaching and learning. Institutions of higher learning and principal preparation programs need to train and nurture their principal/assistant principal candidates to the point where they demonstrate critical professional competencies identified by research for the job.

References

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Education Research Service. 2000. *The Principal, Keystone of a High-Achieving School: Attracting and Keeping the Leaders We Need*. Alexandria and Reston, VA: National Association of Elementary School Principals and National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Hallinger, Philip and Ronald H. Heck. 1996. "Reassessing the Principal's Role in School Effectiveness: A Review of Empirical Research, 1980-1995." *Education Administration Quarterly* (February 1996): 5-44

Lake, Robin J., et al. 1999. *Making Standards Work: Active Voices, Focused Learning*. Seattle, WA: Center on Reinventing Public Education, University of Washington School of Public Affairs.

Teske, Paul E., and Mark Schneider. 1999. *The Importance of Leadership: The Role of School Principals*. Arlington, VA: The Pricewaterhouse Coopers Endowment for the Business of Government.

Do you have good news to share about yourself or some one else? Have you done or seen some research that will inform others? Our newsletter is a great vehicle to get the information out. Send any newsletter submissions to our newsletter editor, Esther Nance at esther.nance@fcps.edu.

Do you want to know more about Phi Delta Kappa? What to keep current with emerging issues in education? Are you interested in finding out about the PDK conference in November? Check out the website! Resources and information are just a click away: www.pdkintl.org