

The PDK-USC Kappan

The Official Newsletter of the University of Southern California Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Phi Delta Kappa shall be to promote quality education, in particular publicly supported education, as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life. This purpose shall be accomplished through research, service, and leadership in education.

*From the Constitution of
Phi Delta Kappa International*



2005-2006 PDK-USC GOVERNING BOARD

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Join us for our next PDK-USC Dinner Meeting

Guest Speaker: Mark Ridley-Thomas

California State Assemblyman, 48th District
USC Alumnus and Former Los Angeles City Council Member

Friday, November 18, 2005

6:00 p.m.

USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room

Inspiration by the USC Delegates to the PDK International Conference in Chicago
Linda Weber, Treasurer, and Adda Serenil, Foundations Representative

To RSVP, see page 3

Meet the Speaker... Mark Ridley-Thomas



Elected in 2002 to the California State Assembly, Mark Ridley-Thomas represents the 48th District. His constituents include the USC/University Park/Exposition Park area and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Arlington Park, Athens, Athens-Westmont, Canterbury Knolls, Chesterfield Square, Country Club Park, Exposition Park, King Estates, Koreatown, Lafayette Park, Leimert Park, Magnolia Square, Morningside, Manchester Square, St. Andrews Square, Vermont Knolls, Vermont Square, Vermont Vista, West Adams, West Park Terrace, and Wilshire Center.

In 2004, Speaker Fabian Núñez appointed Mr. Ridley-Thomas to serve as Democratic Caucus Chair. In addition to this leadership position, he serves as a member of the Assembly Committees on Health; Appropriations; Utilities and Commerce; Arts and Entertainment; and Transportation. Mr. Ridley-Thomas also chairs the Assembly Select Committee on the Los Angeles County Health Care Crisis.

Mr. Ridley-Thomas is a lifelong resident of the City of Los Angeles and is one of its most dedicated public servants. He has spent his political career tackling complex cultural, economic and social issues facing the city's residents. He has advocated for greater civic participation, and he has worked extensively on the economic development and revitalization of greater Los Angeles.

Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Mr. Ridley-Thomas represented the Eighth Council District of the City of Los Angeles. Before serving on the Los Angeles City Council, Mr. Ridley-Thomas served for a decade as Executive Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles, the local affiliate of the national civil and human rights organization founded by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Member Spotlight...Dr. Maria Gutierrez Ott

From the Rowland Unified School District Website

PDK-USC Chapter Member Maria G. Ott, Ph.D., took the helm on July 1 as the Rowland Unified School District's new Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Ott is highly regarded throughout the state's educational community for her strong leadership, her commitment to public education, and her proven results in working with children from diverse and multi-ethnic backgrounds.

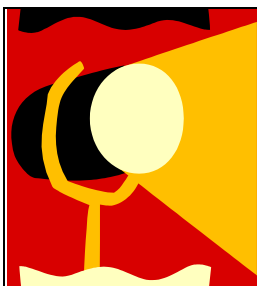


Most recently, Dr. Ott served as the Senior Deputy Superintendent for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the nation's second largest school district. She was responsible for educational services and the supervision of area superintendents. Previous to that role, she served 20-plus years with LAUSD as a teacher, principal, program coordinator, and district administrator.

She also spent seven years as the Superintendent of the Little Lake City School District, an elementary school district serving the communities of Santa Fe Springs, northern Norwalk, and southeastern Downey.

Dr. Ott has earned numerous awards, including AEOE Outstanding Administrator Award; AMAE *Homenaje a la Mujer* Recipient; Lamplighter in Education Recognition, Mount St. Mary's College; Distinguished Educator, California State University, Los Angeles; Educational Leadership Award, Council of Mexican American Administrators; Hispanic Woman of the Year Award, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation; and the USC Rossier School of Education R.O.S.E. Award. She is a past president of the California Latino Superintendents Association and a former leader in the California City Superintendents Association. She is an active member of the Association of California School Administrators, California Association for Bilingual Education, and American Educational Research Association. Dr. Ott was also recently appointed by the U.S. Department of Education to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee for the Western States, a collaboration among the nation's leading educators. The Committee recently released a report detailing the educational needs of the Western States.

Dr. Ott earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Mount St. Mary's College, and completed her doctoral studies at the University of Southern California, majoring in Educational Policy, Planning, and Administration.



Member Spotlight...On You !

The PDK-USC Kappan is looking for news and information about our members to highlight in upcoming issues. Have you or a fellow PDK-USC member recently been promoted or celebrated a professional accomplishment (e.g., career milestone, achievement, honor, award, publication)? Let us know!

If you or another PDK-USC member you know has an exciting achievement that is of note or importance, please share it with us so we can pass along the good news! Submissions are welcome any time of the year.

Member Name: _____

USC Graduation Year: Bachelor's _____ Master's _____ Doctorate _____

Describe the news

Be as specific as possible. Include: new title, school/district/office, and responsibilities; recent publication title and journal/publisher; name of honor/award and awarding institution; career milestone or retirement, etc.

Contact Phone Number: Day () _____ Evening () _____

Contact E-mail : _____

Please send to:

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 or
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2005-2006 PDK-USC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 29** PDK-USC Booth at
USC Homecoming Football Game,
9:30 a.m. until game time

November

- 10-13** PDK International 2005 Conference
Chicago, Illinois (note location change)
Register at www.pdkintl.org
- 18** **PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**
Assemblymember Mark-Ridley Thomas
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.

December

- 8** PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

January

- 20** **PDK-USC Stoops Lecture Dinner Meeting**
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.

February

- 9** PDK-USC Board Meeting
- 25** PDK-LA Teacher's Day,
Time and Location TBD

March

- 24** **PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**
USC Ed.D. Student Presentations
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.
- 30** PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

May

- 5** **PDK-USC Dinner and Awards Meeting**
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.

June

- 8** PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

Chapter Dinner Meetings are in Bold.

Everyone is welcome at the Board Meetings.

A map of the USC University Park Campus can be found at http://www.usc.edu/about/visit/upc/driving_directions/

Save The Date !!

PDK-USC DINNER MEETING @ THE USC UPSTAIRS COMMONS GARDEN ROOM
(Located on the 2nd floor of the Student Union Building – STU on Campus Map)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th.

Name(s): _____ Total # Attending: _____

PDK Membership # (if applicable) _____ Phone #: _____

Meal Choice: Chicken Salmon Vegetarian

If you have already paid for all
PDK-USC dinners this year, please
e-mail your dinner choice to
swinn@usc.edu or send
your choice via U.S. mail.

Mail your check (made payable to *PDK-USC Chapter*)
for **\$30.00*** per person (NOT including parking)
with this form before Tuesday, November 15th to:

PDK-USC Chapter
c/o Stephenie Winn
15529 S. Normandie Ave., Unit A-1
Gardena, CA 90247

*This amount does not include parking. Parking on campus costs \$7.00. Parking is no longer available through Gate #2.
Please enter through Gate #3 off of Figueroa Street and USC McCarthy Way to park in Parking Structure X.

PDK Website Features Timely Articles for Teachers, Administrators, and Researchers

Members of Phi Delta Kappa International now have online access to a wide range of educational articles and services targeted not only at the research community, but also for practitioners such as teachers and administrators.

- *Phi Delta Kappan*, the professional journal for education, and free access to the digital *Kappan* and selected articles in audio format.
- *PDK Connection*, the PDK International association newsletter.
- *Edge: The Latest Information for the Education Practitioner*, an in-depth magazine that focuses on cutting-edge information for teachers and administrators, available free to members in PDF and audio formats.
- *Topics & Trends: The Informed Administrator*, includes many timely, practitioner-oriented research summaries available free to members.
- *Classroom Tips*, contains topical and timely advice for teachers at all levels, available free to members.
- Full access to the Publication Archives, including abstracts of all PDK publications.

To find out more about these resources, update personal information, and learn about the benefits of your membership, visit <http://www.pdkintl.org>, or if you already have a website login, sign in at <http://www.pdkmembers.org>.

The PDK-USC Kappan
Phi Delta Kappa International Chapter #0029
USC Rossier School of Education
WPH 1101
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0031

Address Correction Requested

Reaching Out to Katrina Victims

From the PDK International Website

PDK International is working to ensure a brighter future for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Members and chapters are organizing to bring hope to children and their parents and teachers in affected regions.

PDK International Conference. Due to Hurricane Katrina, the 2005 PDK International Professional Development Conference has been moved from New Orleans to The Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. The dates, November 10-13, remain the same. Instead of a conference in New Orleans, we will be hosting a conference for New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Region. We will still have the same theme and the look of a New Orleans conference. However, the highlight of our conference, the Walk for Education, will be a focused fundraiser for the students, teachers, and schools of the Gulf Coast.

Adopt-A-School Effort. PDK has been matched with Ocean Springs High School near Biloxi, Mississippi. Information about the school and its rebuilding needs can be found on the school's website at <http://www.ossd.k12.ms.us>.

Make a donation to the PDK Educational Foundation. You can designate your contribution to be used for hurricane relief. PDK's Katrina relief efforts are taking shape. Those efforts could include: providing books to libraries, teacher centers, and similar institutions that need to re-build their collections; assisting Kappans in damaged areas; adopting schools in damaged areas; or helping to rebuild destroyed schools.

Think globally, act locally. Tell us what you, your school, or your community is doing so that we can share it with others. E-mail your hurricane relief activities to PDK at chapters@pdkintl.org.