



Phi Delta Kappa
Educational Foundation

2009-10

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award

PDK announces its annual Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, which is funded through the PDK Educational Foundation. One cash award of \$5,000 will be awarded for the doctoral dissertation judged to be the outstanding submission in 2009-10.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The nominee must be a member of PDK.
2. The nominee must be a recent graduate of an accredited college or university.
3. The nominee's major field must be in education, or the dissertation must focus on an educational topic.
4. The nominee's dissertation must have been completed (approved by the doctoral committee and accepted by the graduate school or school of education) between September 1, 2008 and August 31, 2009.
5. The dissertation must represent sound scholarship. The knowledge presented and the conclusions drawn must hold promise for the improvement of education. (Entries are not limited to a particular kind of research.)

Submission Requirements – Nominees must submit all of the following:

1. Application form (included in this brochure)
2. Dissertation summary
 - The summary must include an introduction, including educational rationale and practical application of the study; problem statement; design; data collection methods; results; conclusions; and a brief bibliography.
 - The summary should be 1,000 to 1,500 words in length, excluding the bibliography.
 - The summary must not include identifying information about the author/researcher or the degree-granting institution. Identifying information about subjects or sample populations is permissible.
 - The bibliography should include only the citations used in the summary.
3. Letter of endorsement from the chair of the dissertation committee.
4. Transcript verifying that the doctorate degree was awarded by the institution.

Timelines and Selection

1. Application and supporting materials must be postmarked and submitted to PDK International by mail, fax, or e-mail no later than September 1, 2009. No entry will be accepted that is postmarked after this date.
2. Entries will be judged by a review panel from higher education.
3. All applicants will be notified of the names of the finalists. Finalists will be asked to submit a copy of the full dissertation for review by the selection panel.
4. Results of the competition will be announced by e-mail and on the PDK website in spring 2010.

The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash award. The outstanding dissertation summary will be published in a spring 2010 issue of *Phi Delta Kappan*.



**Contact Information for PDK Outstanding
Doctoral Dissertation Award:**

Scholarships
Phi Delta Kappa International
408 N. Union Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-3800
Phone: 800-766-1156 • Fax: 812-339-0018
E-mail: customerservice@pdkintl.org
Website: www.pdkintl.org

Evaluation Criteria for Judging Summaries

1. **Design.** The quality of the study's overall design includes:
 - a) statement of the problem
 - b) statement of the research question or hypothesis or grand tour question
 - c) statement of purpose of the study
 - d) description of and rationale for design (assumptions and rationale for qualitative design)
 - e) definition of terms
 - f) statement of delimitations and limitations of study
 - g) identification of quality criteria or variables
 - h) description of methods, including site and sample selection, materials, data collection strategies/procedures

2. **Procedure.** The quality of the study's conduct includes:
 - a) indications of respect for privacy and dignity of participants
 - b) statement of data analysis procedures
 - c) evidence of methods of verification/substantiation (triangulation)
 - d) statement of results/outcome of study in relation to theory/literature review
 - e) statement of conclusions
 - f) generation of hypothesis from study's results

3. **Congruence.** The level of congruence or integrity of the study includes:
 - a) congruence between the research question(s) or hypothesis and the design
 - b) congruence between the design and the methods
 - c) congruence between the design/methods and the results
 - d) congruence between the results and the conclusions

4. **Value.** The value of the study to education includes:
 - a) practical application to an issue or problem in education
 - b) contribution to theoretical, defensible knowledge in education or learning theory
 - c) generation/promotion of future research in the field

5. **Presentation.** The quality of the summary's presentation includes:
 - b) clarity and preciseness of writing
 - c) correct use of grammar and punctuation
 - d) neatness and consistency of presentation
 - e) accuracy in representing views of others
 - f) consistent use of a style, such as APA or Chicago
 - g) length of summary (between 1,000 and 1,500 words)

Application

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award

Make certain that all information on this form is completed before you submit it. **Please print or key in** the information. The applicant must be a member of PDK. Entries must be postmarked no later than September 1, 2009. To apply online, go to www.pdkintl.org.

Title of Dissertation _____

Full Name _____

PDK Member ID Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code, Country _____

Daytime Telephone _____ E-mail Address _____

Institution Granting Degree _____

Date Dissertation Accepted _____

Major Field of Study _____

Supporting documentation is attached as follows:

- Dissertation summary
- Transcript
- Endorsement letter from chair of dissertation committee

Entries must be postmarked no later than September 1, 2009.



Send all application materials to:

Dissertation Award
Phi Delta Kappa International
408 N. Union Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-3800, U.S.A.