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## **Grand Prairie ISD Director Selected as PDK Emerging Leader**

ARLINGTON, Va.—Jerry R. Burkett, former principal at Milam Elementary School in Grand Prairie, Texas and current director of college and career readiness for Grand Prairie ISD, has been named a PDK Emerging Leader for his public education advocacy work.

Burkett earned this distinction because of his work educating state lawmakers and community leaders about school finance issues and the importance of the public education system. In addition to his advocacy work, Burkett manages college and career partnerships for the Grand Prairie Independent School District.

“I am an advocate for public education,” Burkett said. “I write, speak and blog about school finance to the local news media and to numerous groups and conferences. I am currently involved in a documentary film about Texas public schools that will be released this spring. I work to remind people that our schools are worth our investment of time, money, energy and support.”

PDK International, the education association that has recognized Burkett as an up-and-coming leader in the K-12 profession, will host Burkett and 25 other education change agents at a weekend networking event this December. The PDK Emerging Leaders will gather in Washington, D.C., meet with federal education policymakers, and share best practices with each other.

“The Emerging Leaders program is our way of paying it forward in public education,” said William J. Bushaw, PDK International’s executive director. “We find people under 40 who are standouts in the profession and we bring them together for a weekend of networking and expertise-sharing in the nation’s capital. By investing in these young leaders, we are investing in the future.”

PDK International is an association that represents nearly 30,000 professionals in K-12 education across the country. Every year, it recognizes a new class of PDK Emerging Leaders. For more information on PDK’s 2013-2014 Class of Emerging Leaders, go to [www.pdkemergingleaders.org](http://www.pdkemergingleaders.org). Information about PDK International is at [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org).

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