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Towson University Lecturer Selected as PDK Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.—Anitra E. Butler, lecturer of literacy in the educational technology and literacy department at Towson University in Towson, MD, has been named a PDK Emerging Leader. Butler earned this distinction for her work lobbying for professional development in literacy leadership for teachers across the country.

“It is my goal to encourage school districts to invest in continuous literacy professional development for teachers,” Butler said. “I will lobby for this literacy training through my position on my local literacy council, which is an arm of the state of Maryland’s International Reading Association Council.”

She will also use her position on the council to encourage more literacy partnerships between local nonprofits and low-income families and to advocate for specially designed literacy instruction for students from low socioeconomic neighborhoods.

PDK International, the education association that has recognized Butler as an up-and-coming leader in the K-12 profession, will host Butler 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. Information about PDK International is at www.pdkintl.org.

-30-

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