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Elon University Assistant Professor Selected as PDK Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.—Jeffrey Paul Carpenter, assistant professor and coordinator of secondary and K-12 teacher education programs at Elon University in Elon, N.C., has been named a PDK Emerging Leader. Carpenter has earned this distinction for his work training preservice teachers to become teacher-leaders.

“There is more work to be done in every school than any one leader can manage,” Carpenter said. “That is why all teachers must be leaders. Every teacher should have the capacity to lead and serve in some aspect of a school or district’s work. I seek to develop the leadership vision and skills of all the teacher candidates with whom I work.”

Many of Carpenter’s student teachers have gone on to lead successful early careers in education. Several have been recognized as teachers of the month and year for their schools, and other recent program graduates are chairing departments at their schools.

“These graduates embody the ethos of teacher-leaders,” Carpenter said.

PDK International, the education association that has recognized Carpenter as an up-and-coming leader in the K-12 profession, will host Carpenter 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.

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