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UC Berkeley Principal Leadership Institute Academic Coordinator Selected as PDK Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.—Rebecca E. Cheung, the academic coordinator for University of California Berkeley’s Principal Leadership Institute, has been named a PDK Emerging Leader. Cheung earned this distinction for her work to increase the number of school leaders in California who are committed to delivering an excellent 21st-century education to the state’s most historically underserved students.

“California urgently needs school leaders who can meet the challenges of working in urban schools,” Cheung said. “I take responsibility for recruiting, preparing, and inducting talented teachers to become school leaders who are committed to underserved students in the San Francisco Bay area.”

Cheung is also dedicated to making the Principal Leadership Institute a model of high quality leader induction that equips leaders with the 21st-century skills necessary to deliver a relevant curriculum to students who are growing up in a high-tech, globalized world.

“Future leaders must personally experience 21st-century teaching and learning, such as hybrid online courses, social media, e-portfolio and student assessment so that they can better understand, develop and support these environments in schools,” Cheung said. “In the next few years, I plan to fully integrate these strategies into the PLI curriculum.”

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