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University of South Florida Associate Professor Selected as PDK Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.—Danielle V. Dennis, an associate professor with the University of South Florida and coordinator of the undergraduate teacher residency program there, has been named a PDK Emerging Leader. Dennis earned this distinction because of her work building a strong partnership between her university and the local public schools.

“University professors are sometimes criticized for being far removed from the K-12 classroom,” Dennis said. “I am proud of the fact that I have worked very closely with classroom teachers at our partner schools to develop a curriculum that combines theory and practice.”

Dennis also helps develop the literacy skills of new and current teachers. She teaches educators how children develop as readers and writers and how to use data, combined with knowledge of literacy development, to make instructional decisions that are appropriate for the diverse students within each classroom.

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