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Contact: Melanie Keller
812-269-6624 / mkeller@pdkintl.org

AASA Associate Executive Director for Policy and Advocacy Selected as PDK Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.—Noelle M. Ellerson, associate executive director for policy and advocacy for AASA, has been named a PDK Emerging Leader for her work as an education leader and advocate.

Ellerson earned this distinction because of her advocacy efforts on behalf of superintendents across the country. In her lobbying work for the AASA, The School Superintendents Association, Ellerson brings the perspectives of superintendents directly to the lawmakers in Congress who craft K-12 education policy.

“AASA advocates school superintendents’ federal education priorities to Capitol Hill and Congress,” Ellerson said. “When I meet with policymakers, I rely on the regular conversation and dialogue I share with superintendents. I average one trip per week for work, speaking at state and local conferences across the county. This travel serves as regular professional development and gives me the opportunity to hear directly from superintendents about how their schools are working and how federal policies are—or are not—supporting their efforts.”

Ellerson’s work for AASA also includes monthly advocacy calls, regular blogging, meeting with policymakers and collaborating with advocates from other education organizations.

PDK International, the education association that has recognized Ellerson as an up-and-coming leader in the K-12 profession, will host Ellerson 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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1525 Wilson Blvd., Suite 605 • Arlington, VA 22209