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**Compton Unified School District Special Education Local Education Area Director
Selected as PDK Emerging Leader**

ARLINGTON, Va.—Jovan Jacobs, a special education local education area director for the Compton Unified School District in Compton, Calif., has been named a PDK Emerging Leader for her work as an education thought leader and advocate.

Jacobs has earned this distinction because of her efforts to make sure that students with special needs in the Compton Unified School District receive individualized, excellent education services.

“I am helping to develop innovative and inclusive programs that utilize technology for students with special needs,” Jacobs said. “In order for all students to succeed, we must provide as inclusive an environment as possible.”

Jacobs is one of the youngest special education local education area directors in California. She assists in the coordination of special education programs and services and facilitates professional development on special education topics.

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