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Griffith Elementary School Principal Selected as PDK Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va. — Rodney S. Lewis, the principal of Griffith Elementary School in Ferguson, Mo., has been named a PDK Emerging Leader for his work in transforming the trajectory of his students' future.

"My students are looking for hope," Lewis said. "It's my job to show my boys and girls that, despite their circumstances, their destiny is not written. I help them realize that the world is one large opportunity and they have to intelligently fight their way through obstacles to make their dreams come true."

Under Lewis' management, Griffith Elementary School has adopted a comprehensive literacy framework that brings together students, teachers, and parents around a common purpose—strengthening students' reading and writing skills. "Many of our teachers are now literacy facilitators and many of our parents are finding their children are excited about reading," Lewis said.

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