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## **Newburgh Free Academy Teacher selected as PDK Emerging Leader**

ARLINGTON, Va.—Natalie A. Morales, a science teacher at Newburgh Free Academy in Newburgh, N.Y., has been named a PDK Emerging Leader for her work in integrating reading and writing skills into her science lessons as called for in the new Common Core State Standards.

“Possessing the ability to read and write are life skills that are needed by all,” Morales said. “It is our responsibility as teachers, administrators, parents, friends, community members, and policy makers to provide our students with the needed resources and literacy skills to further their education, establish their place in the workforce, and to continue the tradition of educating our future generations.”

In addition to her work as a teacher, Morales is also pursuing her doctorate in instructional leadership at Western Connecticut State University. She plans to educate preservice, middle, and high school teachers on the integration of literacy within their content areas.

PDK International, the education association that has recognized Morales as an up-and-coming leader in the K-12 profession, will host Morales 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](http://www.pdkemergingleaders.org). Information about PDK International is at [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org).

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