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University of Southern Indiana Assistant Professor Selected as PDK Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.— Michael T. Ndemanu, an assistant professor at University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Ind., has been named a PDK Emerging Leader for his work in educating pre- and in-service teachers about diversity and equity issues in education.

“Through my research and lectures, I help pre- and in-service teachers to desist from blaming students and their parents for the academic underachievement of the latter. I provide them with requisite pedagogic tools to understand and teach students from diverse backgrounds.” Ndemanu said.

In addition to his work at University of Southern Indiana, Ndemanu co-founded Passport Club to teach students at West Terrace Elementary School about world cultures and respect for diversity. Due to the popularity of this program, the curriculum is being taught bimonthly during and after school hours.

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