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www.pdkintl.org
information@pdkintl.org

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

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania Assistant Professor Selected as PDK Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.—George Sirrakos, previously a science teacher at Hudson High School of Learning Technologies in New York City and currently an assistant professor of secondary education at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, has been named a PDK Emerging Leader for his work in helping advance the belief that traditionally marginalized students can also be successful in science.

“I focus on empowering educators to combat the idea that there is an intellectual deficiency between urban students and their suburban counterparts and to investigate current practices and trends in the science classroom that often label urban students as disinterested,” Sirrakos said.

In addition to his work at the university, Sirrakos is also a consultant for the partnership between Princeton University’s Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering and the Trenton Public School System in New Jersey which aims to reinvigorate the urban youth’s passion for science and encourage them to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

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