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Principal of MS/HS 223 Selected as Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.—Rámon González, the principal of MS/HS 223 – The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology in Bronx, N.Y., has been recognized as an Emerging Leader by PDK International, a global association of education professionals.

The PDK Emerging Leader program recognizes top educators under age 40 from around the world for their leadership. A committee made up of PDK's past Emerging Leaders selected the 22 honorees from a competitive field of applicants, based on their outstanding professional accomplishments.

In addition to being honored at an event in Washington, D.C., honorees also have the opportunity to be published by PDK, apply for grants, and participate in PDK initiatives.

"Honoring these young leaders is one of PDK's most important initiatives," said William J. Bushaw, PDK International's executive director. "We know the future of education is in good hands with leaders like these making a difference in the lives of our students."

González served as a teacher, district coordinator, and assistant principal for seven years prior to founding his own school, MS 223, in 2003. His school, which will expand to include high school grades in 2013, was created to replace one of the most dangerous middle schools in New York City. Less than 10 percent of students at MS 223 were at grade level in reading and mathematics when it opened. Seven years later, 65 percent were on grade level in English and 85 percent were on grade level in math. He was awarded a 2007-2008 Cahn Fellow for Distinguished Principals. In 2011, he received the Sloan Public Service Award for New York Government and was named a Champion of Change by the White House.

"I am committed to overcoming challenges that affect students before and after they reach the schoolhouse doors," González said. "As we work to reform our schools, we need to focus on creating more learning opportunities outside of the classrooms and ensuring that children from low-income families have the same quality school experiences as their more affluent peers."

González holds a bachelor's degree in government and master's degrees in special education, education administration, and school leadership. He is working toward a doctorate at Columbia University Teachers College. He is engaged in many professional and civic organizations and holds leadership positions in the Bronx Middle School Principal's Consortium, Arete Education Inc., Randall's Island Sports Foundation, and N.Y. Middle School Principals' Association. He is currently working on a proposal for an inner-city boarding school for "at-promise" students in the South Bronx. He is a member of PDK International.

For more information on PDK's 2012-2013 Class of Emerging Leaders, go to www.pdkemergingleaders.org.

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About PDK International

Founded in 1906, PDK International is a global association for professional educators. The organization's mission is to support education, particularly public education, as the cornerstone of democracy. More information is online at www.pdkintl.org.

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