

Providing leadership, research, and service since 1906



www.pdkintl.org
information@pdkintl.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 22, 2012

Contacts: Brittany D. Friesner
812-269-6621
bfriesner@pdkintl.org

Educational Research Coordinator Honored for Research on Underrepresentation of Women in STEM Fields

BLOOMINGTON, IND. — Dr. Roxanne M. Hughes, educational research coordinator for the Center for Integrating Research and Learning at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Tallahassee, Fla., has received Recognition of Merit in the 2011–2012 PDK International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award program. Her dissertation, “The Process of Choosing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Careers by Undergraduate Women: A Narrative Life History Analysis,” investigates the reasons for women’s underrepresentation in STEM fields in college.

“This year, PDK received more than 40 exceptional entries for its dissertation award, and Dr. Hughes’ research stood out to the review panel,” said Dr. William Bushaw, PDK International’s executive director. “Research is central to PDK’s mission, and we are thrilled to honor Dr. Hughes’ work. She has made an important contribution toward advancing the field of education.”

In her dissertation, Hughes explored the factors that influenced undergraduate women’s choice to pursue a career in a STEM field. Her research focused on 26 women who attended a Tier-One university in the southeastern United States between 2006 and 2010.

“This study indicates that persistence in STEM degrees is highly influenced by three main factors,” said Hughes, who earned her doctoral degree at Florida State University. “Key factors are precollege and college success in math and science; support from parents, teachers, and college professors; and peer support networks at the college level.”

The PDK Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award is sponsored by the PDK Educational Foundation, which provides support for the projects of PDK International, a global association for educators. This award, which is designed to further research in education, is given to the PDK member whose dissertation best meets the criteria of sound scholarship and shows the most promise for improving education. In addition to the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, four members received Recognition of Merit for their dissertations. PDK received more than 40 submissions for the award, which was selected by a panel of education researchers.

An announcement of Hughes’ award will be published in the May 2012 issue of *Phi Delta Kappan*, the nation’s leading journal on education policy and practice.

-30-

PDK INTERNATIONAL FAMILY OF ASSOCIATIONS

PDK INTERNATIONAL® • PI LAMBDA THETA • FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION®
PHONE 812-339-1156 • TOLL FREE 800-766-1156 • FAX 812-339-0018
320 W. Eighth St., Suite 216 • P.O. Box 7888 • Bloomington, IN 47407-7888

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.

PDK INTERNATIONAL FAMILY OF ASSOCIATIONS

PDK INTERNATIONAL® • PI LAMBDA THETA • FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION®
PHONE 812-339-1156 • TOLL FREE 800-766-1156 • FAX 812-339-0018
320 W. Eighth St., Suite 216 • P.O. Box 7888 • Bloomington, IN 47407-7888