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Ontario Ministry of Education Policy Analyst Honored for Research on Effects of Transformational School Leadership Model

BLOOMINGTON, IND. — Dr. Jingping Sun, a policy analyst in the Leadership Development Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Education in Toronto, has received Recognition of Merit in the 2011–2012 PDK International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award program. Her dissertation, “A Review of Transformational Leadership Research: A Meta-Analytic Approach,” investigates the nature of the transformational school leadership (TSL) models and analyzes their impact on schools, teachers, and students.

“This year, PDK received more than 40 exceptional entries for its dissertation award, and Dr. Sun’s 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. Sun’s work. She has made an important contribution toward advancing the field of education.”

In her dissertation, Sun took a meta-analytical approach to examining the effects of the transformational leadership model on organizational processes in a school context — including teacher- and student-related outcomes — and explored the implications of these effects on strategies for improving schools and student learning.

“By identifying trends in the development of transformation leadership in the last two decades, this review unveiled the statistically significant impact TSL has had on student learning,” said Sun, who earned her doctoral degree at the University of Toronto. “This study provides a framework for school administrators and policy makers to develop teachers, initiate change in schools, improve student learning, and enhance school leadership.”

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

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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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