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For Immediate Release

PDK to convene SEL discussion

ARLINGTON, Va. — PDK to convene SEL discussion

PDK International will host a daylong dialogue about social-emotional learning (SEL) on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at Gallup headquarters in Washington, D.C.

One of the findings in this year's PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools was that U.S. adults ranked student engagement with schoolwork and students' hopefulness for their future far ahead of test results as a measure of a school's effectiveness. At this event, panelists will explore that finding and share ideas about how to apply SEL in the classroom and how to measure it.

"At the same time that teachers, parents, and students are becoming increasingly vocal that students are more than a test score, researchers have shown that students with high EQ (emotional intelligence) and strong SEL skills excel in the classroom and life," said Joshua P. Starr, PDK's chief executive officer and convener of this meeting.

"Promoting SEL throughout a school community is a complex undertaking that requires shifting the notion of teaching and learning to be about relationships as well as academics; creating classroom environments, designing activities, and choosing materials that support SEL development; being more student-focused, especially regarding their strengths; training teachers, leaders, families, and students on SEL's role in the classroom and school; and, designing a commensurate policy and accountability framework," Starr said.

Invited panelists include Tim Shriver, chairman of Special Olympics and author of *Fully Alive* (Sarah Crichton, 2014), Shane Lopez, senior scientist at Gallup and author of *Making Hope Happen* (Atria, 2013), Jessica Lahey, author of *The Gift of Failure* (HarperCollins, 2015), and Meria Carstarphen, superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools.

There is no charge for attendance, but registration is required. To learn more, email Elaine Leibsohn, eleibsohn@pdkintl.org.

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