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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teacher Selected as Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.— Earlisha Whitfield, a teacher in West Feliciana Parish and a former 3rd-grade teacher at Ryan Elementary School in Baton Rouge, La., 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."

Whitfield, a National Board Certified Teacher, is a former reading coach at Ryan Elementary School, where she previously taught 3rd and 4th grade. She has received several teacher of the year awards and was an Exxon Mobil volunteer tutor and facilitator. She has written grants for nearly \$10,000 to benefit needy students in the Baton Rouge area. Whitfield recently accepted a position with West Feliciana Parish School System in St. Francisville, LA.

"My goal is to bring together community, staff, and programs that focus on building strong communities, which lead to improved quality of life for my students and their families," Whitfield said.

She is a member of PDK International and International Reading Association.

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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