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[information@pdkintl.org](mailto:information@pdkintl.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Brittany D. Friesner  
812-339-1156  
[bfriesner@pdkintl.org](mailto:bfriesner@pdkintl.org)

**Assistant Professor of Education at Southern Arkansas University  
Selected as Emerging Leader**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Neelie Dobbins, an assistant professor of education at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark., has been selected as an Emerging Leader by PDK International, a global association of education professionals.

The PDK Emerging Leaders program recognizes top educators under age 40 from across the globe for their leadership and vision in the field of education. A review committee composed of past PDK Emerging Leaders selected this year's 18 honorees from a competitive field of applicants, based on their outstanding professional accomplishments.

In addition to being honored at the 2012 PDK International Conference, honorees also have the opportunity to be published by PDK, apply for grants, and participate in PDK initiatives.

"Recognizing the achievements and commitment of these young leaders is vital to PDK's vision of cultivating tomorrow's great educators," said William J. Bushaw, PDK International's executive director. "These inspiring individuals will provide a very bright future for the field of education."

Dobbins possesses considerable experience as a classroom instructor at the undergraduate and graduate levels and is a skilled state instructional specialist. She is a sought-after national and international speaker having organized and hosted more than 100 professional development workshops for approximately 15,000 teachers.

"Throughout my accomplishments and developments in educational programs, I strive to apply current research in best practices and program sustainability in developing pre- and in-service teachers," Dobbins said. "I believe it is imperative I continue developing my personal leadership skills in order to influence high student achievement for tomorrow's learners."

Dobbins is a member of the Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators and the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics as well as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics. She has been honored numerous times for her work with students and mathematics, including recognition on three occasions with the Children's International Math Specialist Award.

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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](http://www.pdkintl.org).

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PDK International • Pi Lambda Theta • Future Educators Association®  
PHONE 812-339-1156 • TOLL FREE 800-766-1156 • FAX 812-339-0018  
408 N. Union Street • P.O. Box 7888 • Bloomington, IN 47407-7888  
[www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org) • [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org) • [www.futureeducators.org](http://www.futureeducators.org)