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Director of School Turnaround for Denver Public Schools Selected as Emerging Leader

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Rebecca Grant, the director of School Turnaround for Denver Public Schools in Denver, 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."

Grant's 15-year education career has spanned several states, including California, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Texas, and Colorado. She has served as a middle-school science teacher, outdoor education teacher, educational researcher, curriculum-development specialist, and has worked in school and district leadership.

"I am passionate about educational equity and excellence," Grant said. "My current and previous work in supporting dramatic improvement in low-performing schools in a short period of time is both extremely challenging and tremendously rewarding."

Grant is also pursuing a doctoral degree in the Urban Superintendents Program in the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University. Her doctoral work focuses on the experiences of professionals who transition from business to education leadership. She aims to provide insight to how schools and districts can develop support systems for these individuals to increase their chances of success and maintain their important contributions to public education.

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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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