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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2011

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Central Office Administrator for Shelby County Schools Selected as Emerging Leader

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Matthew Nelson, a central office administrator with Shelby County Schools in Memphis, Tenn., 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."

Nelson taught high school English and drama classes before moving to the Shelby County Schools central office, where he now oversees the district's English/language arts, theatre arts, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate programs.

"I am passionate about helping all students and teachers become as successful as possible," Nelson said. "I consider it an honor to work with the wonderful administrators, teachers, staff, and students in my district."

His immediate goals include working with educators to develop curricula and assessments that are linked to national standards, while ensuring teachers and students do not lose a love of teaching and learning. Nelson's long-term goals include pursuing a doctorate in education administration and policy analysis so he can have a voice in shaping the future of 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.