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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Teaching Assistant and Doctoral Student at University of Nebraska Selected as Emerging Leader**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Jessica Rivera-Mueller, a teaching assistant and doctoral student in the Department of English at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb., 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."

Rivera-Mueller is a composition instructor at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, where she is pursuing her doctorate in English. Specializing in composition and rhetoric, she studies connections among teachers, students, and curriculum development in composition classrooms.

"For me, leadership is a verb — something I do — rather than a noun or a position I hold," Rivera-Mueller said. "Accordingly, I have focused my passion for teacher development into creating opportunities for future and practicing teachers to engage in collaborative conversation."

As a teacher-scholar, she advocates for pedagogies that value the strengths students and teachers bring into classrooms. Rivera-Mueller serves as the vice president for her local PDK chapter and is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Education Research Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies, and the National Council of Teachers of English.

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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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