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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assistant Professor at Towson University Selected as Emerging Leader

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Jessica Shiller, an assistant professor in the Department of Instructional Leadership and Professional Development at Towson University in Towson, Md., 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."

Shiller began her career as a New York City public school teacher before pursuing a graduate degree at New York University, where she specialized in urban education. Hoping to improve the preparation of new teachers, Shiller then became a teacher educator at Lehman College with the City University of New York before moving to Baltimore to serve as adjunct professor at Towson and Loyola universities, where she taught courses in curriculum and assessment, as well as race, class, and gender in education.

"I have dedicated my life's work to improving education policies so that students from low-income communities and communities of color have the same opportunities in public education as their middle-class and white peers," Shiller said.

Shiller has also worked as director of education policy with the nonprofit organization Advocates for Children and Youth in Baltimore, serving as a leader in education policy issues in the city and at the state level. Her current research and teaching at Towson is dedicated to the improvement of urban schools.

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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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