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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Principal of Bains Lower Elementary School Selected as Emerging Leader**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Raquel L. Square, the principal of Bains Lower Elementary School in the West Feliciana Parish School System in St. Francisville, La., 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."

As principal of Bains Lower Elementary School, Square has increased the use of data-driven decision making to make informed decisions about teaching and learning. She has also implemented learning communities at each grade level to deepen teacher collaboration, improve instructional strategies, increase teacher knowledge, and promote teacher leadership.

"In this era of accountability, principals are no longer managers of facilities," Square said. "Instead, they are instructional leaders charged with ensuring that teachers are providing quality instruction to increase student achievement."

Square is pursuing a doctorate of education from Walden University and completing courses at Xavier University as a member of the Louisiana School Turnaround Specialist Program. She is a member of the National Association of Elementary Principals, the Louisiana Association of Principals, and the West Feliciana Parish Reading Council.

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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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