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## **Local Educator Selected as Emerging Leader**

NEW YORK, NY—Christopher Emdin, an assistant professor of science education at Teachers College, Columbia University, has been recognized as an Emerging Leader by PDK International, a leading association of education professionals.

Throughout his career, Emdin has been a middle school science and math teacher, a high school physics and chemistry teacher, an adjunct professor at Queens College, and an instructor in and coordinator of the science education program at Lehman College, City University of New York. He co-authored the proposal to open Marie Curie School for the Allied Health Professions in the Bronx, where he currently serves as an advisory board member. Emdin is also the recipient of the 2007 PDK International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award for his in-depth research on approaches to increase student motivation, involvement, and achievement in science education within urban schools.

“While I taught math and science in middle school, I pursued my master’s degree,” Emdin said. “I would meet with students in the morning and after school for study sessions, where I would complete my master’s degree coursework assignments as they completed their homework assignments. My goal was, and has always been, to lead by example and show students that learning is a lifelong activity and a rewarding endeavor.”

A committee made up of PDK’s past Emerging Leaders selected the 20 honorees from a competitive field of applicants.

“The 20 members of the 2008-09 Class of Emerging Leaders embody the PDK tenets of leadership, research, and service,” said William Bushaw, PDK’s executive director. “They represent the best of the profession.”

For more information on PDK’s 2008-09 Class of Emerging Leaders, including podcast interviews with the honorees, go to [www.pdkemergingleaders.org](http://www.pdkemergingleaders.org). Information about PDK International is at [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org).