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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2009

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McHenry County College Administrator Selected as Emerging Leader

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.—Kathleen Plinske, associate vice president of institutional effectiveness at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Ill., has been recognized as an Emerging Leader by PDK International, a global association of education professionals.

The PDK Emerging Leader program recognizes top educators under age 40 from across the world for their leadership, particularly as it is related to PDK's tenets of service, research, and leadership. A committee made up of PDK's past Emerging Leaders selected the 24 honorees from a competitive field of applicants, based on their outstanding professional accomplishments.

"The 24 members of the 2009-2010 Class of PDK Emerging Leaders join an illustrious group of educators who, even early in their careers, are making extraordinary contributions to our profession," said PDK Executive Director William Bushaw. "We are delighted to honor these outstanding educators."

Before holding her current position at McHenry County College, Plinske served as executive director of institutional effectiveness, temporary director of distance education and professional development, coordinator of media development and technology training, and instructional media specialist, all at McHenry County College. She also teaches Spanish I and II, and she developed the online and hybrid course materials for these classes.

"My vision has been to support the creation of an organizational culture in which employees are empowered to participate in decision making and to identify and act upon opportunities to improve the learning environment at the college," Plinske said.

She is a member of PDK International, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Pi Sigma National Physics Honor Society, and Golden Key National Honor Society. In 2006, she was named one of McHenry County's Top 10 Professionals Under 40.

For more information on PDK's 2009-2010 Class of Emerging Leaders, including podcast interviews with the honorees, go to www.pdkemergingleaders.org. Information about PDK International is at www.pdkintl.org.

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