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Science Park High School Student Elected as President of International Student Education Organization

BLOOMINGTON, IN—Leilani Bell, a senior at Science Park High School in Newark, New Jersey, was elected by student members of the Future Educators Association® to serve as the inaugural student president. The Future Educators Association (FEA), a federally recognized student organization that supports individuals interested in education careers, elected international student representatives for the first time at the FEA international conference, which was held February 18-20, 2011, in Atlanta, Georgia. Three FEA students ran for international student president.

Bell's one-year term as president is effective immediately, and she will serve with two regional student vice presidents until new student officers are elected at the next FEA conference in February 2012. As president, Bell will add the student perspective to education conversations at the national level; serve as an FEA representative at local, state, and national functions; and collaborate with FEA constituents to ensure that FEA students have a voice in program and event development.

Additionally, as a result of her own personal experiences, Bell is a strong advocate for teaching in an urban school district. It is her hope that every child receives the same quality education regardless of location, and she believes that being an FEA officer will allow her to express the need for caring and dedicated urban teachers.

"I am very humbled by the results," Bell said. "I am also incredibly excited to serve as a voice for prospective educators everywhere. I grew up in a difficult urban area but attend a high-performing school. Many people wonder how we are successful. There is one simple answer to that—the teachers at my school are devoted and want to see their students succeed. I am determined to be a teacher who can shape and change the future of a child. And I'm excited to work with future teachers from around our nation and world who share a common commitment to make our education systems better."

"This was an election where the Future Educators Association would have been served by a great leader, regardless of the outcome," said FEA Director Jeanne Storm. "We are thrilled to have Leilani serving as our inaugural student president. It is clear that she has the talent and

commitment that it takes to truly make a difference in education in our country, and we know she will represent our student membership well.”

In addition to serving as the FEA international president, Bell is the president of the FEA chapter at Science Park High School, where she is also involved in other activities, including a peer leaders program, the swim team, and various community service projects. Bell plans to become a high school history teacher.

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About the Future Educators Association®

The Future Educators Association® (FEA) is a professional organization whose mission is to foster the recruitment and development of prospective educators worldwide through the dissemination of innovative programming and relevant research. FEA enhances co-curricular programs for students interested in education-related careers by providing personal growth opportunities through recognition and leadership activities directly related to the education profession. FEA is a member of the PDK International family of organizations, which also includes the collegiate honor society Pi Lambda Theta. More information is online at www.futureeducators.org.

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. Most well known for publishing *Kappan* magazine, PDK is committed to cultivating great educators for tomorrow and ensuring high-quality education for today. For more information, visit www.pdkintl.org.

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