



For Immediate Release

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34 Boston Teachers Awarded Fund for Teachers Grants for Global Learning Odysseys

Will spend summer in 17 countries/5 continents to model lifelong learning for students

HOUSTON (May 3, 2011) While America's educational system navigates budget cuts resulting from state shortfalls, 34 Boston teachers will navigate the world this summer on [Fund for Teachers](#) fellowships. These preK-12 educators proposed their ideal professional development experiences to Fund for Teachers through an online application and, fueled by \$5,000 individual and \$10,000 team grants, will now embark on their self-designed odysseys to 17 global destinations.

"Being awarded a Fund for Teachers grant truly validates my work as a middle and high school teacher," said Jose Valenzuela, teacher at TechBoston Academy Lower School who will use his Fund for Teachers grant to research throughout West Africa the slave trade of the 18th-19th centuries to help students examine the historical period of enslavement and understand the role of historians in recreating history. "Given this chance to research and explore a new part of the world and develop a related curriculum is the true meaning of 'professional development.'"

Additional Boston teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Liz MacDonald (Mather Elementary), Mary Galvin (William Blackstone Elementary), and Geoff Rose (Paul A. Dever Elementary) who will interview representatives from the University of Helsinki and Finland's Ministry of Education, and afterwards observe Danish classrooms, to learn how Finland successfully organized teaching around national standards in preparation for BPS' adoption of Common Core standards;
- Alison Galanter and Mary-Alyce McLaughlin (Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers) who will visit Germany and Poland's World War II/Cold War museums, historical sites and survivors to better understand the perspectives of perpetrator, victim, bystander, and heroes in world events; and,
- Charles Lucas (Mather Elementary) who will investigate bicycle usage in Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, and France, to understand how these countries fostered a high level of riding participation and work with Dorchester to promote bicycling as an option for wellness, transportation and recreation among students and their families.

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Fund for Teachers partners with the [Boston Plan for Excellence](#) to locally administer the selection process.

“Fund for Teachers has awarded 302 Boston teachers more than \$1 million in teacher grants over the past eight years,” explained Karen Kovach Webb, FFT executive director. “These fellowships catalyze a ripple effect of inspired learning for the teacher, their students and school community. We believe that teachers, when empowered as lead learners, will deliver better instruction to more engaged students.”

In total, 430 teachers across America received \$1.7 million in Fund for Teachers grants to travel this summer on self-designed learning odysseys. A complete list of these teachers’ project descriptions and destinations, including [every Boston recipient](#), is available at fundforteachers.org.

About Fund for Teachers

A national, donor-supported organization, Fund for Teachers makes an important contribution to America’s educational conversation by expanding the definition of teacher professional development. By investing \$15.9 million in 4,500 educators over the past ten years, Fund for Teachers inspires teachers’ pursuit of meaningful, self-designed work that translates into skills and scholarship directly impacting student learning. For more information, visit fundforteachers.org, facebook.com/fundforteachers or twitter.com/fundforteachers.

About the Boston Plan for Excellence

The Boston Plan for Excellence in the Public Schools is a local education foundation established in 1984 to support the city’s schools in raising student achievement. As a local education fund and nonprofit, the Boston Plan works from the “outside in,” acting as both an ally and critical friend to the Boston Public Schools — seeking and supporting innovative solutions to the toughest problems faced by Boston’s students, their teachers, and the school district as a whole.

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