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### **Summer Odysseys Energize Boston Teachers for New School Year**

#### *Fund for Teachers Grants Bridge Teacher Learning With Dynamic Classrooms*

Houston (August 31, 2010) – Students returning to many Boston Public Schools' classrooms this week may confuse their teacher with an explorer, researcher or scholar. They're actually one and the same, thanks to Fund for Teachers grants that sent 28 BPS teachers on summer learning odysseys this summer.

Tapping their inner-student, these teachers individually designed and experienced fellowships to engage and inspire both themselves and, subsequently, their students. As a result, their teaching and curriculum will now reflect insights, experiences and primary sources collected from around the world.

For example:

- Students at **Dr. William W. Henderson Inclusion Elementary** will participate in a virtual information project with a fourth grade class at Nairobi's Kilimani Public School initiated through **Danielle Merdin** and **Terri Wellner's** educational tour of Kenya.
- Immigrant students at **Brighton High** will more readily relate with **Martha Boisselle** after her time spent in intensive Spanish language classes while volunteering in a local high school in Montanita, Ecuador; and
- **Meredith Innis** and **Wendy Lai's** students at **English High** will be encouraged in personal business pursuits with real-life examples collected from microentrepreneurship research in the Dominican Republic.

After navigating the globe on \$14.2 million in FFT fellowships over ten years, these and 4,000 more "Fellows" daily inspire school communities with experiences and insights only attainable by "being there." Each fellowship is as unique as the teacher who designed it; and regardless of the destination or discipline, our Fellows have returned to more than 2,500 schools inspired by their pursuit of ideas, terrains, and cultures on all seven continents.

Teachers interested in pursuing 2011 summer grants may apply online beginning October 1 at [fundforteachers.org/apply](http://fundforteachers.org/apply). Deadline for applications is January 28, 2011.

FFT, through the Boston Plan for Excellence, has awarded \$943,315 in grants to 268 Boston teachers since 2004. To learn about their adventures, visit [www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch](http://www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch), or visit [facebook.com/fundforteachers](https://www.facebook.com/fundforteachers) to follow all 2010 Fellows' summer odysseys.

Fund for Teachers is a national, donor-supported organization celebrating its tenth year of awarding teachers the chance to pursue learning opportunities that have the greatest impact on themselves, their students and their communities. For more information, visit [fundforteachers.org](http://fundforteachers.org).

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