



For Immediate Release

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45 Chicago Public School Teachers Awarded Fund for Teachers Grants Global Learning Odseys

Will spend summer in 15 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, 45 Chicago Public School (CPS) teachers will navigate the world on [Fund for Teachers](#) fellowships this summer. 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 odseys to 15 global destinations this summer.

"While in Mexico, I plan to collect historical resources and document my journey through history, ultimately sharing everything I learn and obtain with my students," said Katie Lyons, teacher at National Teachers Academy Elementary School who will use her Fund for Teachers grant to explore Mexican colonial cities representing the Aztec, Mayan, and Olmec cultures to enhance students' understanding of past and present Latin America. "I'm excited to serve as my students' tour guide and I look forward to improving my ability to inspire and engage students through innovative teaching techniques I develop this summer."

Additional CPS teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Julie Furigay (Claremont Academy Elementary School) who will join the State University of New York's Mathematical Tour of Renaissance Italy, learning about math's connection to history, science, culture to make math come alive for students;
- Eric Carlson (Thomas Kelly High School) who will collaborate with aid workers striving to achieve the UN's Millennium Development Goals in Ghana to create a "Students as International Activists" unit that facilitates service-learning projects supporting these efforts; and
- Maureen Buending and Violeta V Bosworth (Walter S. Christopher Elementary School) who will attend the International Society for Technology in Education conference in Philadelphia to learn how to optimize current hardware/software and maximize students' excitement to learn through technological advancements.

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Fund for Teachers partners with the [Chicago Foundation for Education](#) to locally administer the selection process.

“CPS teachers have received more than \$1 million in FFT during our seven year partnership with the Chicago Foundation for Education,” explained Karen Kovach Webb, FFT executive director. “These fellowships catalyze a ripple effect of inspired learning for the teacher, their students and school community. Our goal and expectation is that teachers, when empowered as lead learners, will deliver better instruction to more engaged students.”

In total, 432 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 Chicago 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 Chicago Foundation for Education

CFE is celebrating 25 years of support to Chicago Public School (CPS) educators, impacting nearly 30,000 teachers and more than 1 million students. With a staff of five and a corps of more than 250 dedicated volunteers, CFE presents professional development and leadership opportunities, provides financial incentives, and facilitates collaborative networks that foster heightened instructional effectiveness. For more information regarding CFE’s programs, or to learn how to donate to and volunteer with CFE, please visit [www.ChicagoFoundationforEducation.org](#).

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