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Summer Odysseys Energize Chicago Teachers for New School Year

Fund for Teachers Grants Bridge Teacher Learning With Dynamic Classrooms

HOUSTON (August 31, 2010) – Students returning to several Chicago Public Schools' classrooms 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 34 CPS 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 **Columbia Explorers Elementary Academy** will be encouraged to think more critically by developing their intellectual strengths through insights **Lisa Caputo** collected at Harvard University's Project Zero Classroom;
- **Javier Velazquez'** students at **Julia Ward Howe Elementary** will explore real-life models for mathematical and scientific problems created from his bicycle trek from Oregon to Missouri; and
- Students at **Hyde Park Academy High School** will learn how to resolve conflicts peacefully while exploring the value of empathy stemming from **Iris Binor's** attendance at "Teaching Empathy and the Role of the Individual Through Art in the Context of Our Global Community" at the Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon, Africa.

After navigating the globe on \$14.2 million in Fund for Teachers 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. Deadline for applications is January 28, 2011.

Fund for Teachers, through the Chicago Foundation for Education, has awarded \$913,013 in grants to 236 Chicago teachers since 2005. To learn about their adventures, visit www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch, or visit 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.

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