



For Immediate Release

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**Expeditionary Learning Teachers Awarded Fund for Teachers Grants for Global Learning Odysseys**

*Will spend summer in 11 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, 32 Expeditionary Learning (EL) 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 odysseys to 11 global destinations.

"This fellowship gives me the chance to learn in the same way I teach my students, by venturing into the world to see what we can discover," said Diana Pollock, teacher at Cooperstown Middle School in Cooperstown, NY, who will travel to Greece and Rome, conducting on-site studies and collecting artifacts of ancient structures and ruins, to learn how these sites are reflections of people's values, beliefs and lives and create a new expedition.

Additional EL teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Rayna Dineen (Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences-Santa Fe, NM) who will study the heritage and strategies of service at Indian's renowned Riverside School and Gandhi's ashram to enrich her school's service learning program;
- Chris Dolgos (Genesee Community Charter School – Rochester, NY) who will traverse Europe researching Neanderthals and afterwards, participate in a U.S. institute on stone-tool making to establish a unit for young students; and
- Jonathan Esvelt and Alicia Whitney (Kettle Falls 5-12 School – Kettle Falls, WA) who will travel to Alaska's Denail National Park for workshops on wolves and outdoor reading/writing to support students' research of the "wolf problem" in their rural community.

Fund for Teachers partners with [Expeditionary Learning](#) to administer the national selection process.

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"At the core of our eight-year partnership, Fund for Teachers and EL share a belief in the power of teacher leadership and professional development that transforms teacher practice," said Scott Hartl, EL president. "EL teachers return from Fund for Teachers experiences not just renewed, but inspired and ready to lead positive change in their own classrooms and across their schools. By offering teachers the opportunity to be engaged learners themselves, experience the challenge of adventure and gather new tools and resources, we catalyze student achievement, character and citizenship."

"Fund for Teachers has awarded 360 EL teachers approximately \$2 million in teacher grants over our eight year partnership," explained Karen Kovach Webb, FFT executive director. "These fellowships create 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, 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 EL 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 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 Expeditionary Learning

[Expeditionary Learning](#) partners with school districts and charter boards to open new schools and transform existing schools at all levels, pre-K-12, and in all settings – urban, rural, and suburban. The EL model challenges students to think critically and to take active roles in their classrooms and communities, resulting in higher achievement and greater engagement with school. The national network of EL schools and professional colleagues includes 165 schools, 4,000 teachers, and 45,000 students.

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