



For Immediate Release

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Fund for Teachers Awards 63 Houston Teachers Grants for Global Learning Odysseys

Will spend summer in 17 countries/7 continents to model lifelong learning for students

HOUSTON (May 3, 2011) While America's educational system navigates budget cuts resulting from state shortfalls, 63 Houston 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.

"These fellowships don't simply impact us as teachers, but ultimately our students, as well," explained Martin Saucedo, teacher at Milby High School, who will travel through Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Peru on his FFT grant, analyzing community impact on global environmental change to inform language and AP Environmental Science courses. "It's hard to believe there's an organization like [Fund for Teachers](#) that gives money to teachers so we can go and learn. You don't hear that a lot in our profession. I can already tell this is going to be a life-changing experience."

Additional Houston teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Teri Marsh (Longfellow Elementary) who will volunteer at a school service Burmese refugee students in Mae Sot, Thailand, to introduce her students to the plight of 300,000 displaced people and inspire a fifth grade unit on persuasive writing for humanitarian purposes;
- Kristi Long (Johnston Middle School) who will study the geology, history, and culture of Iceland and Greenland to develop curricular materials relating mathematics to other core subject areas; and,
- José Torres (High School for Performing and Visual Arts) who will study the Mariachi tradition under the director of the Mariachi Ensemble at UCLA's Department of Ethnomusicology to create a comprehensive curriculum that engages students who might otherwise not pursue music.

"Fund for Teachers has awarded more than \$3 million in to 800 Houston teachers since our organization was founded by Apache Corporation 11 years ago," explained Karen Kovach Webb, 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."

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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 Houston 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.

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