



For Immediate Release

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24 Los Angeles Teachers Awarded Fund for Teachers Grants for Global Summer Learning Odysseys

Will spend summer in 8 countries/4 continents to model lifelong learning for students

HOUSTON (May 3, 2011) While America's educational system navigates budget cuts resulting from state shortfalls, 24 Los Angeles teachers will navigate the world on [Fund for Teachers](#) fellowships this summer. These K-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 Singapore, Iceland, Greenland, Kenya, India, Belize, Sierra Leone, New York City and Washington, DC.

"Being part of this group of 24 teachers operating at such high caliber is a pleasure and honor in itself," said Wendy Huang, teacher at Burbank Elementary School who will use her grant to participate in an educator's workshop in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore to investigate the Singapore Math concept and how its methods and support strategies help students internalize math concepts for long-term growth. "This grant also gives me the opportunity to take the concepts and theories I've learned through articles and journals to a four-dimensional level. I'll get to spend time with local educators and see how they approach math and cement mathematical reasoning. Of course, the fringe benefit of getting to know an exciting, different culture while I travel is also made possible because of Fund for Teachers."

Additional Los Angeles teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Robin Houlahan, Cherie Eulau, Chris Prewitt and Melissa Wantz (Foothill Technology High School) who will collect stories from survivors of Sierra Leone's civil war to enrich current curriculum and further a collective understanding of war, modern African culture and the human experience;
- Jenna Mann (Central School) who will teach at Kenya's Kibera Slum School, observing education's role in overcoming extreme adversity, to inspire students' belief in themselves and their potential; and,
- Lisa Ward and Debra Lauer (Toluca Lake Elementary School) who will explore the Inuit culture in Uummannaq, Greenland, under the guide of a polar explorer, to animate current "Survival" unit and meet fourth graders' pen pals at the local orphanage.

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“Fund for Teachers has awarded 131 Los Angeles teachers more than \$430,000 in teacher grants over the past seven years,” 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, 430 teachers across America received \$1.7 million in Fund for Teachers grants to travel this summer on their own self-designed learning odyssey. A complete list of these teachers’ project descriptions and destinations, including every [Los Angeles 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 11 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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