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## **Summer Odysseys Energize Los Angeles Teachers for New School Year**

### *Fund for Teachers Grants Bridge Teacher Learning With Dynamic Classrooms*

HOUSTON (August 31, 2010) – Students returning to several Los Angeles area 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 29 LA 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 **Manuel A. Salinas Creative Arts Elementary** will be encouraged to share their personal stories in the style similar to the folktales and oral narratives **William Beshears** observed while creating a walking narrative in Ireland;
- The needs of women and children in Southeast Asia will become personal to **Rancho Alamitos High School** students as **Christine Warner** shares her research on the impact of poverty on the lives of people in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; and
- Students of **Trinsa Bingham, Lisa Daniels, Paul Ragis** and **Laurie Varney** at **Arroyo West Elementary** will be introduced to the Reading Workshop methodology they learned at the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University.

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](http://fundforteachers.org/apply). Deadline for applications is January 28, 2011.

Fund for Teachers has awarded \$344,252 in grants to 107 Los Angeles teachers since 2005. To learn about their adventures, visit [www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch](http://www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch), or visit [facebook.com/fundforteachers](https://www.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](http://fundforteachers.org).

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