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For immediate release  
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**Five Minneapolis Teachers Receive Fund for Teachers Grants for Global Summer Learning Odysseys**  
*Will spend summer in United Kingdom, Peru, and Guatemala to model lifelong learning for students*

MINNEAPOLIS (May 3, 2011) While America’s educational system navigates budget cuts and state shortfalls, five Minneapolis Public School (MPS) teachers will be navigating the world on [Fund for Teachers](#) (FFT) fellowships this summer. These five K-12 educators proposed their ideal professional development experiences to FFT, and were awarded \$5,000 individual and \$10,000 team grants for self-designed odysseys to the United Kingdom, Peru, and Guatemala. Fund for Teachers partners with [AchieveMpls](#), the nonprofit partner of the Minneapolis Public Schools to locally administer the selection process.

“I’m tremendously thankful for this generous Fund for Teachers grant,” said Pamela Lindberg, teacher from Minneapolis North High School. “It helps me feel rewarded and honored for my work with young people, and will allow me to pursue my dream of attending a summer educators’ institute at Oxford University.” While at Oxford, Pamela will study literature from centuries prior to 1900 to learn how to inspire in students to learn literature at a rigorous level. “My students are very excited about my opportunity to study at this world-class university, and will greatly benefit from what I learn this summer.”

Four other MPS teachers who received Fund for Teachers grants include:

**Elizabeth Espe and Amy Kennedy** (Andersen United Community School) who will volunteer in Peruvian schools with students and families in their native cultural setting to learn new ways of connecting with families during conferences, phone calls, and in sharing common goals for the students; and,

**Theresa Kindle** (Andersen United Community School) and **Carol Wolff** (Bryn Mawr Community School), who will study Spanish in Antigua, Guatemala and volunteer with local schools. They hope to strengthen their communications skills build stronger teacher-student-parent teams back home.

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Over the past 13 years, Fund for Teachers has awarded more than \$425,000 in teacher grants to 127 MPS teachers. “These teacher fellowships create a ripple effect of inspired learning for the teacher, their students, and the broader school community,” says FFT executive director Karen Kovach Webb. “We believe that when teachers are more empowered as lead learners, they can deliver better instruction, and their students are more engaged.”

Nationally, 430 teachers across the United States received \$1.7 million in Fund for Teachers summer travel grants this year. A complete list of these teachers’ project descriptions and destinations, including [every MPS recipient](#), is available at [fundforteachers.org](http://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](http://fundforteachers.org), [facebook.com/fundforteachers](https://facebook.com/fundforteachers) or [twitter.com/fundforteachers](https://twitter.com/fundforteachers).

#### **About AchieveMpls**

As the strategic nonprofit partner of the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), AchieveMpls mobilizes a wide web of community support and resources to ensure academic achievement, equitable opportunities, and career and college readiness for all students. AchieveMpls directs innovative programming focused on college and job preparation, mobilizes community engagement with public education and MPS schools, and secures private financial support from individuals, businesses, and foundations. Learn more at [www.achievempls.org](http://www.achievempls.org), or follow us at Facebook.com/achievempls or @achievempls.

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