



For Immediate Release

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48 New York City Teachers Awarded Fund for Teachers Grants for Global Learning Odysseys

Will spend summer in 27 countries/6 continents modeling lifelong learning for students

HOUSTON (May 3, 2011) While America's educational system navigates budget cuts resulting from state shortfalls, 48 New York City 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 27 global destinations.

"Fund for Teachers does what no other educational organization in the country does: It brings the best teachers together in one room, asks them how can they become better teachers and increase student achievement, and puts them on a flight to anywhere in the world to bring back the best educational resources and experiences available," said Erik Fogel, teacher at Bronx High School for Law - Government and Justice. He will use his Fund for Teachers grant to attend the International Society for Technology in Education conference in Philadelphia to learn how to empower his award-winning school debate team with 21st century technology."

Additional New York City teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Jared Bezzant and Nathan Thornhill (Williamsburg Prep, Brooklyn) who will explore landmarks along the path of Cuba's revolution to document how its citizens built and maintain a vibrant sense of national pride and how ponder how to instill a similar sense of cultural pride within students;
- Andrew Shaw (Manhattan Hunter Science High School) who will Study effective technology and approaches to solving modern mass transit's limitations in China, Mongolia and Russia to create a transportation/engineering component for eleventh grade physics classes; and
- Shefali Nanavati (Shuang Wen School - PS/MS 184) who will explore the influence of mathematics on India's history, art, and architecture to enrich student understanding of geometric principles and make abstract mathematic concepts more concrete.

Fund for Teachers partnered with the [New Visions for Public Schools](#) to locally administer the selection process.

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“By providing our best teachers with the chance to become “lead learners” in world studies and travel, Fund for Teachers ensures that they return with fresh, creative approaches to the curriculum,” said Bob Hughes, New Visions president. “Fund for Teachers grants provide much needed recognition of excellence in the classroom, offers teachers an outstanding opportunity for professional development, and rewards them for their commitment to their students’ academic growth.”

“Fund for Teachers has awarded 599 New York City teachers more than \$2.6 million in teacher grants over our nine year partnership with New Visions,” explained Karen Kovach Webb, Fund for Teachers 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 self-designed learning odysseys. A complete list of these teachers’ project descriptions and destinations, including [every New York City 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.

About New Visions

New Visions is committed to demonstrating that mass numbers of low-income, urban students can graduate from high school fully prepared for a competitive world. At our network of 76 New York City public schools, we work to define and implement innovative strategies that make success more likely for our neediest students. By strengthening curriculum and empowering teachers who are willing to take chances and be accountable for outcomes, we build capacity within schools to make success possible and sustainable.

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