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Fund for Teachers – New Visions for Public Schools Offers Grant Challenge to All NYC Public High School Teachers

February 1, 2012 (New York City) – All New York City public high school teachers have some thinking to do: What do they want to learn and where they want to learn it this summer? By crafting their proposal and submitting to [Fund for Teachers](#), they could receive up to \$10,000 to make it happen.

The **Fund for Teachers – YouPD Challenge Grant** is a pilot program extending the traditional Fund for Teachers grant opportunity to all New York City public high school teachers. Since 2003, 600 [New Visions for Public Schools](#) teachers received more than \$2.6M in Fund for Teachers grants to pursue learning odysseys around the world and engage students in 350 NYC schools.

This supplementary, citywide challenge opens the teacher grant opportunity to high school teachers who spend at least 50 percent of a full-time position in direct instruction with students, intend to return to the school or district the following year, and who have at least three years of teaching experience.

To apply, public high school teachers must complete an [online application](#), available beginning February 1. A complete submission will include a Fund for Teachers application and a screencast, video or audio slideshow demonstrating a Common Core standards-aligned curricular unit in a New York State Regents subject area. The application deadline is Wednesday, February 29.

From March 1-7, in a peer review format, teachers may vote on applicants' submitted curricular unit and video submissions at [YouPD.org](#); these results comprise one component of the selection process. Additionally, New Visions and Fund for Teachers will convene a selection committee to ultimately fund **ten applications**.

"We're excited to open up the Fund for Teachers grant opportunity to all NYC public high school teachers," said Robert Hughes, president of New Visions. "We believe strongly that learning begins with teachers themselves. By integrating a peer-to-peer professional development component to this new Fund for Teachers citywide opportunity, we hope that teachers can learn from one another while developing a strong community of practice."

Unlike most teacher grants, Fund for Teachers places virtually no limitations on teachers' proposals, making each fellowship as unique as the teacher who designs it. After navigating the globe conducting field research, attending seminars, volunteering with community organizations or observing best practices, these teachers (or Fellows) return to classrooms inspired by the pursuit of ideas and cultures on every continent.

Fund for Teachers enriches the personal and professional growth of teachers by supporting their pursuit of learning around the world to impact their practice, their students and their school communities. For more information, visit www.fundforteachers.org or call 800.681.2667.

YouPD.org is a website hosted by NVPS and designed to inspire the open publishing and peer-review of Common Core aligned unit plans in high school Regents courses.

About New Visions for Public Schools

New Visions for Public Schools is a nonprofit education organization whose mission is to design, create and sustain great schools for New York City's highest need students. As a partnership organization with the NYC Department of Education, we help strengthen a network of public district schools; as a charter management organization, we are building a network of charter high schools in high-needs neighborhoods of NYC; and as an innovation hub, we are developing systems to improve instruction, school leadership, teacher certification, and parent and community engagement. Our goal is to raise student achievement and help prepare students for the demands of college and the 21st century workforce. Visit us at www.newvisions.org.