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## **Summer Odysseys Energize Nebraska Teachers for New School Year**

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

HOUSTON (August 31) – Students returning to several Nebraska 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 23 Nebraska 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:

- **Aldrich Elementary** and **Neihardt Elementary** students' literacy curriculum will be enhanced with music, song, play, movement and dance after **Elizabeth King** and **Sarah Jessick** completed Orff Schulwerk Level III training at Southern Methodist University in Dallas;
- **Jefferson Intermediate School** students and teachers will benefit from a Google Earth virtual field trip **Karen Dux** created to increase global and cultural awareness of Beijing and Xian, China; and
- "The next generation" at **Millard North High School** will explore the effects of WWI & II on Europe and as **Michelle Edmundson** and **Brad Edmundson** share their observations of how England, France and Germany are attempting to preserve and honor the memory of battles and soldiers.

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, through the Malaika Foundation, this year awarded \$99,463 in grants to 23 Nebraska teachers. To learn about their adventures, visit [www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch](http://www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch), or visit 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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