



For Immediate Release

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13 Oakland Teachers Awarded Fund for Teachers Grants for Global Learning Odysseys

Will spend summer in 7 countries/4 continents to model lifelong learning for students

HOUSTON (May 3, 2011) While America's educational system navigates budget cuts resulting from state shortfalls, 13 Oakland teachers will navigate the world this summer on [Fund for Teachers](#) fellowships. These K-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 seven global destinations.

"This Fund for Teachers grant is an amazing opportunity that allows me to continue developing an art program based on a shifting global paradigm that values living, working and creating in sustainable ways," said Debra Stuckgold, teacher at Learning without Limits School. "My grant will allow me to travel to remote areas of Costa Rica and Panama and meet with both individual artists and members of the Guaymi and Kuna Indian tribes and view first-hand how the practices of ecology and art are interrelated." Stuckgold plans to use her experiences to guide students in the creation of Earth-friendly art projects.

Additional Oakland teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Jennifer Brouhard (Glenview Elementary) who will attend an educator's seminar at the University of York and visit museums and ports in Barcelona, Madrid, Liverpool and London to deepen understanding of the European influence on the Transatlantic Slave Trade and engage students in history and critical thinking;
- Pauline Russell, Marlene Klein-Atwood and Lesley McClintock (Encompass Academy) who will explore folk tales and folk art of Mali, West Africa, to help students learn to tell their own community's traditional stories and revive the school's story telling tradition; and,
- Thomas Salvatore (Marshall Elementary) who will study the Kodaly method of music education at the Lizst Academy of Music's Kodaly Institute in Kecskemet, Hungary, followed by a tour of the Kodaly museum in Budapest, to help students achieve high-level music literacy goals.

Fund for Teachers partnered with the [Marcus Foster Educational Fund](#) to locally administer the selection process.

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“Supporting teacher innovation to create more effective learning opportunities was a hallmark of Dr. Foster’s work in education,” offered Alicia Dixon, MFEF executive director. “We are proud of our teachers, students and schools and excited to partner with Fund for Teachers to provide this vital resource to the Oakland community.”

“Fund for Teachers has awarded 145 Oakland teachers more than \$570,000 in teacher grants over the past 11 years,” explained Karen Kovach Webb, FFT 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, 432 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 Oakland 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 the Marcus Foster Education Fund

The Marcus Foster Education Fund has served students, teachers, and parents in the Oakland Unified School District for 37 years. Its mission is to *develop relationships and mobilize resources that create opportunities for all children in the Oakland Public Schools to achieve excellence*. The organization was founded by and later renamed after the late Oakland Schools superintendent Dr. Marcus Foster, and continues to pursue his vision that urban education can be transformed only when the community actively participates. In fact, MFEF was the first local education fund in the nation and continues to use its resources to improve educational opportunities and foster community participation for quality education for students in Oakland’s Public Schools.

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