



For More Information:  
Carrie.Pillsbury@fundforteachers.org

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

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

Oakland (August 31, 2010) – Students returning to several Oakland area classrooms this week 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 11 Oakland 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:

- **Glenview Elementary's** students of color will be led in self-expression techniques **Linda Morgan** learned at the "Teaching through Musical Theater" conference in Sacramento, CA, and the "iTheatrics Junior Teaching Intensive" professional development seminar in New York City;
- **Damon Grant's** students at **Oakland Unity High School** will be encouraged to become cultural anthropologists, documenters and storytellers of their lives and the world around them after viewing the digital narratives he created in Guatemala documenting the immigration experience; and
- The **Global Family School's** Asian students will benefit from new insights gained from **Roberto Palomino** and **Rosa Jimenez'** research of Dual Immersion Models in Beijing schools.

After navigating the globe on \$14.2 million in FFT 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.

FFT, through the Marcus Foster Education Fund, has awarded \$529,868 in grants to 133 Oakland teachers since 2001. 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).

###