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

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

HOUSTON (August 31, 2010) – Students returning to many Oklahoma 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 68 Oklahoma 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:

- **Central Middle School** students will learn how to maximize the use of technology in science exploration and methodology from **Carrie Clark's** experiences using LabQuest technology to collect soil and water samples in Yellowstone National Park;
- The large contingent of Vietnamese students at **Moore West Junior High** and throughout the district will explore concepts of cross-cultural understanding based on **Cort Hayhurst's** exploration of Vietnam and Cambodia's modern metropolises, rural villages and historical sites; and,
- Students at **Tahlequah High School** will incorporate video, photographs and GPS coordinates **Brenda McClain** collected at World War II sites in Germany into podcasting, graphic design and GPS/GIS projects making history and English come alive.

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 Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and Tulsa Community Foundation, has awarded \$2,231,804 in grants to 712 Oklahoma teachers since 2002. To learn about their adventures, visit [www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch](http://www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch), or visit [facebook.com/fundforteachers](https://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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