



For Immediate Release

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13 San Francisco Teachers Awarded Fund for Teachers Grants for Global Learning Odysseys

Will spend summer in 8 countries/5 continents to model lifelong learning for students

HOUSTON (May 3, 2011) While America's educational system navigates budget cuts resulting from state shortfalls, 13 San Francisco teachers will navigate the world this summer on [Fund for Teachers](#) fellowships. These pre 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 Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, New York City, and Peru.

"Receiving this Fund for Teachers fellowship is a dream come true," said Michael Prutz, teacher at Lowell High School, who will use his grant to deliver donated shoes to Kenyan children through Shoe4Africa, then assist the organization's hookworm and AIDS prevention efforts to inspire students' participation in global issues. "I want to demonstrate for students how local involvement can positively contribute to Kenyan children's health and welfare, allowing them the opportunity to get involved in the project and see how they can affect someone's life from 9500 miles away."

Additional San Francisco teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Robert Sautter (Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School and Child Development Center) who will enroll in the Don Quijote Language School in Guanajuato, Mexico, to deepen knowledge of the Spanish language and Mexican culture and create relationships with students' families characterized by trust and respect;
- Susan Gonzalez (Taylor Elementary School) who will found a book club at the Bantuma School in Elmina, Ghana, to facilitate literacy skills and international peer relationships among students in West Africa and San Francisco; and,
- Leon Sultan (Abraham Lincoln High School) who will conduct interviews throughout Colombia's Isla Providencia to seed an oral history project that inspires students to be amateur historians and view their lives as part of a greater narrative.

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“Fund for Teachers has awarded 70 San Francisco teachers more than \$255,000 in teacher grants over the past six 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, 430 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 San Francisco 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.

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