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### **Summer Odysseys Energize Washington DC Teachers for New School Year** *Fund for Teachers Grants Bridge Teacher Learning With Dynamic Classrooms*

HOUSTON (August 31, 2010) – Students returning to several Washington DC area 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 eight 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:

- **Two Rivers Public Charter School** students will be encouraged to take action that addresses real problems in their environment by **Chelsie Jones, Vaishali Patel** and **Rebecca Rennard-Tattitch** who explored Tanzania's ecosystems, observed youth-initiated service projects, and researched community-based conservation efforts.
- **Diego Duran-Medina** will deepen **Edmund Burke School** students' discussion of important questions using an educational documentary he created at Hiroshima that explores Japanese history, cultural memory, social justice, peace and war; and
- **H. Winship Wheatley Early Childhood Center** students will be encouraged to think more critically and creatively after **Didi Dolandolan** and **Ricci Mercado** attended the "Project Zero Classroom" symposium at Harvard University.

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 has awarded \$183,718 in grants to 50 Washington DC area teachers since 2005. 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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