



For Immediate Release

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31 Wisconsin 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, 31 Wisconsin teachers will navigate the world on [Fund for Teachers](#) fellowships this summer. These preK-12 educators at [Wisconsin Schools of Recognition](#) 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.

"Only the Apollo trips to the moon rival the Lewis and Clark expedition when it comes to important discoveries and explorations," said Ginny Fritz who, with colleague Paul Timm from Grand Marsh Elementary, will use their grant to follow Lewis and Clark's cross country journey, emphasizing its historical significance while promoting environmental awareness and physical activity. "To travel in their footsteps and physically challenge ourselves to endure the elements is exhilarating."

Additional Wisconsin teachers awarded Fund for Teachers grants include:

- Janet Key (Lowell Elementary School – Milwaukee) who will attend the Clarice Smith National Teacher Institutes at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., gaining expertise from educators, curators, and technology specialists to make interdisciplinary connections between art and core subjects, especially Social Studies and English/Language Arts;
- Danielle Fields, Carissa Brudos and Mary Hangartner (Summit Elementary School – La Crosse) who will study art, music and physical activities of the Hmong people in Laos and Thailand to create culturally relevant lesson plans this growing student population and foster cultural understanding in our school and broader school community; and
- Kristin Howard and Nichole A Von Haden (Sherman Middle School – Madison) who will explore and research the land of the Olmecs, Mayans and Aztecs while learning about rainforest conservation and sustainable agriculture to create an inter-disciplinary virtual field trip for students.

Fund for Teachers partnered with the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#) to locally administer the selection process.

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“As Wisconsin educators continue working to ensure every child graduates prepared for success in the workforce or further education, it is important for teachers to continue their own studies and professional development,” said Jonas Zuckerman, education consultant with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. “The educational experiences provided by the Schools of Recognition Fellows program will provide powerful lessons that teachers can integrate into rich learning experiences for students.”

“Wisconsin teachers have received more than \$190,000 in FFT grants over the last two 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 Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is responsible for the education of almost 900,000 students in Wisconsin. Led by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers, the Department's mission is to make "Every Child a Graduate." To accomplish this mission and ready students for further education and the workforce, WDPI works to align efforts so students benefit from both college and career preparation while gaining skills and knowledge to equip them as contributing members of the community.

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