



For more information, contact:
Claudia Morlan, 713-524-0661 or
Carrie Pillsbury, 713-296-6776

Fund for Teachers Announces Atlanta Recipients of the 2009 Education Grants

ATLANTA (May 5, 2009) – Fund for Teachers joins today’s celebration of National Teacher Day by announcing its list of 2009 Fellows from Atlanta, in conjunction with the Atlanta Education Fund (AEF). This summer **18 local teachers** who received **\$77,114** in Fund for Teacher fellowships will close their classroom doors and embark on odysseys around the world that they designed to further their personal and professional growth.

Begun eight years ago by one Houston businessman in appreciation of a profoundly influential teacher, Fund for Teachers has since awarded almost 3,500 teachers approximately \$12 million in grants and subsequent life- and career-changing experiences. That total includes 126 Atlanta teachers.

“We truly believe that Fund for Teachers changes the world one teacher at a time,” said Karen Kovach Webb, executive director of Fund for Teachers. “These grants act as catalysts to inspire and bring about change within the teacher, the classroom and the community.”

Examples of these exemplary educators’ itineraries include:

- Attending a photovoltaic design and installation workshop at Solar Energy International, Colorado, to promote renewable energy in schools;
- Participating in the Verbier Festival Academy in Verbier, Switzerland, to observe and research strategies used in master classes and chamber music coaching; and
- Volunteering with the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Chengdu, China, focusing on wildlife conservation program and conducting scientific research.

“As an 18 year-educator, I know how important it is for teachers to engage in ongoing professional learning to sharpen their skills,” said Hosanna M. Johnson, president of the AEF. “The AEF is honored to serve as the Fund for Teachers local partner to ensure the program’s efficiency and success. On behalf of the AEF and its board of directors, congratulations to the 14 exceptional Atlanta Public School teachers who were awarded the 2009 Fund for Teachers grants.”

Unlike other educational grants, Fund for Teachers gives teachers the freedom to design the experience that will most impact their lives, their profession, and their community. Teachers who apply and are selected work with students in grades pre-K-12, have a minimum of three years' teaching experience and spend at least 50 percent of their full-time schedule in a classroom setting. Applicants document their vision in a proposal detailing how their summer fellowship will make them a better teacher, in addition to ways their experience will impact their curricula. Selections are based on how the proposed summer activity will make the applicant a better teacher, how the knowledge acquired will be implemented in the classroom, and how the improved skills will benefit students, curricula and the school.

Made possible by generous corporate and individual donors, see the list of [2009 Fund for Teacher Atlanta grant recipients](#).

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About Fund for Teachers (FFT)

FFT's mission is to enrich the personal and professional growth of teachers by recognizing and supporting them as they identify and pursue opportunities around the globe that will have the greatest impact on their practice, the academic lives of their students and on their school communities.

Atlanta Education Fund (AEF)

The Atlanta Education Fund's mission is to galvanize community support to accelerate and sustain student achievement in Atlanta's public schools. Its goal is to enhance the community's capacity to lead, support, monitor, and advocate for effective education reforms for all students of the district. The AEF will focus on two key functions to carry out its mission: keeping the public informed and involved, and supporting & leading key reform initiatives in Atlanta's public schools.