



Global Learning Adventures Await Atlanta's Top Teachers

Fund for Teachers Now Accepting Applications for 2010 Summer Education Grants

ATLANTA (September 22, 2009) – Fund for Teachers invites educators from across the country to dream big and submit proposals for their own do-it-yourself learning odysseys next summer. Destinations and disciplines are limitless as the itineraries of 3,500 teachers over the past nine years include tours, conferences and independent studies on every continent. An online application goes live October 1 at www.fundforteachers.org, starting the journey toward individual grants of \$5,000 and team grants of up to \$10,000 for summer 2010. The deadline for submission is Friday, January 29, 2010.

“Teachers have the power to transform the world through their direct daily contact with our future generations,” said Karen Kovach Webb, executive director for Fund for Teachers. “Thanks to our partnerships and generous donors, we offer educators the opportunity to pursue areas of personal and professional interest and bring their experiences and energy back to the classroom.”

This summer, 400 teachers (or Fellows) closed their classroom doors to embark on their own personal and professional development experiences around the world, **18 from across Atlanta** and supported by FFT's community partner the Atlanta Education Fund. Examples of their destinations and disciplines include:

- Two teachers from Woodland Academy and Scott Elementary enrolled in a tropical ecology and conservation workshop on the island of Dominica through the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to identify better strategies for teaching ecology in the classroom;
- A Kennedy Middle School teacher witnessed racial reconciliation and restorative justice practices in South Africa and will develop a more positive climate in her school setting and community;
- Two teachers at the Alonzo A. Crim Open Campus High School explored early colonial England to study the English perspective of American colonist James Oglethorpe and research information on the founding of Georgia; and,
- A teacher at Southside High School attended a photovoltaic design & installation workshop at Solar Energy International in Colorado to promote renewable energy in schools.

Unlike other educational grants, Fund for Teachers gives teachers the freedom to design an experience that will most impact their lives, their profession, and their community. 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. These proposals are then evaluated by a diverse selection committee comprised of community members, donors, local educators and past Fellows.

FFT education grants are open to teachers who:

- Work with students in pre-K through 12th grade
- Have three or more years teaching experience
- Spend at least 50% of the time in a classroom or classroom-like setting, and
- Teach in the Atlanta Public School district (visit <http://www.fundforteachers.org/apply.html> for eligibility)

Examples of past Fellows' expeditions can be accessed at <http://www.fundforteachers.org/fellows.html>.

Fund for Teachers is a national, donor-supported organization celebrating its tenth year of awarding fellowships for self-designed professional growth to teachers who recognize the value of inquiry, the power of knowledge and their ability to make a difference. To date, approximately 3,500 of America's top teachers received more than \$12.5 million in FFT grants, empowering them to pursue opportunities that transform learning for themselves, their students and their school communities.

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. For more information, visit www.atlef.org.

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Traci West, 2009 Fund for Teachers Atlanta Fellow, attended the Equinox Spanish School in Ecuador to study Hispanic culture and language in order to develop and enhance teaching and learning skills.

