



## Global Learning Adventures Await Boston's Top Teachers

### *Fund for Teachers Now Accepting Applications for 2010 Summer Education Grants*

BOSTON (September 23, 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](http://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.”

Over the past nine summers, 3,500 teachers (or Fellows) closed their classroom doors to embark on their own personal and professional development experiences around the world, **240 of those from across Boston** who were supported by FFT's community partner the Boston Plan for Excellence.

Examples of previous Boston Fellows' destinations and disciplines include:

- Three teachers at the Horace Mann School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing researched Sign Bilingualism used with deaf/hard of hearing children in Europe to expand their understanding of cultures and backgrounds;
- Two teachers from Quincy Upper School began learning Cantonese, and researched parental involvement in multilingual schools and increased their understanding of the Chinese culture in Hong Kong;
- A teacher at The Mission Hills School participated in a home-stay and studied schoolyard ecology in Bolivia and Argentina; and,
- A teacher at O'Bryant School of Math & Science volunteered with HIV care and management at a clinic in Hue, Vietnam and studied national HIV health policy in Hanoi to develop case studies for his classes.

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.

-more-

FFT education grants are open to teachers who:

- Work with students in pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Spend at least 50% of the time in a classroom or classroom-like setting
- Have three or more years teaching experience in the Boston Public Schools (BPS)
- Teach in a Boston Public School and will continue to teach in the BPS the following year.

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.

**Boston Plan for Excellence** is a local education foundation working in close partnership with the Boston Public Schools to refine professional development for all teachers and Principals-headmasters and to improve instruction in all classrooms. The Boston Plan plays two roles: to test new ideas that hold promise for accelerating improvements in schools and to press the district to look at its own policies and practices that slow reform. For more information, visit [www.bpe.org](http://www.bpe.org).

###

2008 Boston Fund for Teachers fellow BuudoanTran volunteered with an HIV care and management clinic in Hue, Vietnam and studied national HIV health policy in Hanoi.

