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## **Fund for Teachers Announces Chicago Recipients of the 2009 Education Grants**

CHICAGO (May 5, 2009) – Fund for Teachers joins today’s celebration of National Teacher Day by announcing its list of 2009 Fellows from Chicago, in conjunction with the Chicago Foundation for Education (CFE). This summer, **36 local teachers** who received **\$153,162** in Fund for Teacher fellowships will close their classroom doors and embark on odysseys around the world that they designed to further 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 202 teachers from Chicago.

“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:

- Exploring Germany and Switzerland to learn from the environmental awareness practiced by the two countries;
- Immersing in New Zealand’s Maori art, storytelling and performance to enhance the fine arts curriculum; and
- Attending the Isabela Oceanographic Institute on the Galapagos Islands to study the ecophysiology of fauna in unique ecosystems.

“The Chicago Foundation for Education is proud to partner with Fund for Teachers to ensure the professional growth of Chicago public school teachers so that they not only bring innovative teaching approaches and new curricula to their classrooms, but also serve as models of lifelong learning and pursuing dreams,” said Sarah Rossi, CFE executive director.

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 Chicago 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.

**About The Chicago Foundation for Education**

The goal of the Chicago Foundation for Education is to support grant-based programs that improve teacher effectiveness and increase student achievement in the Chicago Public Schools. For more information, please visit [www.cfegrants.org](http://www.cfegrants.org).