



Fund for Teachers Announces 2009 Education Grant Recipients
\$1.5 million granted to 375 teachers across the country this year
Founders' Award also presented to 14 teachers

HOUSTON, TX (May 5, 2009) – [Fund for Teachers](#) joins today's celebration of National Teacher Day by **announcing its list of 2009 Fellows** who will share a total of **\$1.5 million** in education grants to pursue personal and professional growth around the world this summer.

"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 that provide real life experiences to accompany text book learning. As a result, we've found a more invigorated and passionate teacher returns to the classroom and reflects positively on their students, peers and communities.

This summer, these 375 exemplary educators will apply the grants toward broadening their knowledge and [pursuing their interests around the world](#). Made possible by generous corporate and individual donors, the following 2009 Fund for Teachers grant recipients include:

City/Market	Total Teachers Awarded	Total Grant Dollars Awarded
Atlanta	18	\$77,114
Chicago	36	\$153,162
Expeditionary Learning Schools	41	\$128,978
Houston	68	\$299,300
Los Angeles	19	\$49,556
New York	69	\$349,177
Oakland	19	\$78,719
Oklahoma	73	\$292,820
Rural School and Community Trust Program	17	\$65,518
San Francisco	11	\$35,948
Washington, D.C.	4	\$14,798

See a detailed list of teachers, schools and fellowship descriptions at [2009 Fund for Teachers Fellows](#)

Outstanding New York City teacher and 2008 fellow Corey Pickering is this year's recipient of Fund for Teachers' annual Plank Fellowship Award. Named in honor of Fund for Teachers' founder Raymond Plank, the award recognizes exceptional Fellows who best exemplify the organization's mission and whose summer abroad made the greatest impact back home.

“The fellowship was a catalyst that continues to further my personal and professional growth,” said Pickering. “Fund for Teachers gave me the freedom, time and tools to explore my subject in-depth and to engage with challenging questions and materials. This experience strengthened my confidence and renewed my excitement about my subject, making teaching even more of a joy than it already is.”

In addition to naming its national Plank Fellowship Award winner, Fund for Teachers also recognized local winners from its partner programs across the country, including: Trey Thames, Houston; Erin Goodling, San Francisco; Kathy Clunis, Boston; Ziomara Perez and Megan Whitney, Chicago; Cindy Coughlin and Sandra Collins, Expeditionary Learning Schools; Melody Afill and Donna McChesney, Oklahoma; Donna McSweeney and Lynn Talamini, Rural School and Community Trust; Robert Jeffers, Los Angeles; and Julie Anderson, Oakland.

This annual education grant program provides teachers, known as Fellows, with individual grants of up to \$5,000 and team grants up to \$10,000, empowering them to travel, attend seminars and workshops, and acquire hands-on experience. Their itineraries this year canvass a wide variety of subjects, disciplines and destinations.

Unlike other educational grants, Fund for Teachers gives teachers the freedom to design their own professional development experience. 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.

A national education non-profit, Fund for Teachers has awarded more than \$12 million in grants to approximately 3,500 of America’s top educators over the past nine years. For more information on how you can make teachers’ dreams a reality, visit www.fundforteachers.org.

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