



Global Learning Adventures Await New York City's Top Teachers
Fund for Teachers Now Accepting Applications for 2010 Summer Education Grants

NEW YORK CITY (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, 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, **69 from New York City** and supported by FFT's community partner New Visions for Public Schools. Examples of their destinations and disciplines included:

- A teacher from International High School at Laguardia Community College lived in a Buddhist monastery in Thailand in order to learn more about the religion, the main culture and the faith of his students, and to gain a better understanding of who they are and how to teach them more effectively;
- A teacher from New York Harbor School observed wooden boat construction, mathematics and history to develop an interdisciplinary curriculum based on drafting and measurement; and
- A teacher from the School for International Studies immersed herself in Tel-Aviv-Jaffo to study Arabic language and culture and explore how art and environmental activism can build bridges of peace and coexistence in her Brooklyn classroom.

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 an eligible New York-area 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.

New Visions for Public Schools, founded in 1989, is the largest education reform organization dedicated to improving the quality of education children receive in New York City's public schools. Working with the public and private sectors, New Visions develops programs and policies to energize teaching and learning and to raise the level of student achievement. Visit www.newvisions.org

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2009 NYC Fellow Noah Heller traveled to Indonesia to develop an interdisciplinary curriculum based on drafting and measurement to make authentic connections between wooden boat construction, mathematics, and history.

