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Wisconsin Seizes Opportunity to Bring the World to Their Teachers

Title I and "Schools of Recognition" Now Eligible for Fund for Teachers Grants

HOUSTON – December 1, 2009 – Tapping federally designated funds for incentivizing Title I teachers, the State of Wisconsin today opens the application process inviting eligible educators to dream big and propose the Fund for Teachers summer fellowship that will keep them inspired and engaged in their classrooms. Grants of \$5,000 (for individuals) and \$10,000 (for teams) are available for teachers who design their own professional development experiences and apply online at www.fundforteachers.org. Applications for the 2010 fellowships are due January 29th.

“Our state-wide partnership with Wisconsin signifies an exciting future for both the state and Fund for Teachers,” said Karen Kovach Webb, Fund for Teachers’ executive director. “Over the past decade, we’ve awarded \$12.5 million to 3,500 teachers, but offering fellowships to educators across an entire state by leveraging “No Child Left Behind” dollars is a new model for us and one that any state can replicate. A state need only utilize monies already available to it to reward and retain their top teachers. We’re so pleased that Wisconsin turned to Fund for Teachers to teachers.”

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, local educators and past Fellows.

FFT Fellow Grants are open to Wisconsin 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;
- Teach in a 2009-10 Wisconsin Promise School of Recognition for eligible schools (see http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2009_23.pdf for list), and;
- Have the intention of returning to teach in their school/district in the following school year.

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Wisconsin teachers meeting the above requirements may now join the 3,500 "Fellows" who expand their students' worldview by first expanding their own. Fund for Teachers' summer fellowships strengthen the vital bond between curriculum, experiences and the ongoing human narrative, subsequently transforming the process of learning in classrooms and school communities. To date, Fund for Teachers Fellows' disciplines and destinations include conferences, coursework, festivals, home stays, tours, workshops and volunteer efforts in 155 countries on 7 continents.

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. For more information about Fund for Teachers, visit www.fundforteachers.org.

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