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Global Opportunities for Teachers Now Available to Atlanta's Top Educators
New Atlanta Education Fund Partnership with Fund for Teachers Announced

October X, 2008 – Atlanta — Passports replace paper and suitcases trump scissors for the fortunate teachers awarded a unique summer professional development experience through a fellowship granted by Fund for Teachers (FFT). Applications for individual grants of \$5,000 and team grants of up to \$10,000 are available **today** at **www.fundforteachers.org**. The deadline for submission is January 30, 2009.

A new component of the 2009 fellowships is FFT's partnership with the Atlanta Education Fund (AEF), which is now FFT's partnering organization to recruit and reward the area's top educators.

"I am excited about this partnership between the Atlanta Education Fund and Fund for Teachers," said Hosanna Johnson, AEF president. "In all of the work that we do to support the district, the quality of Atlanta's schools is only as good as the quality of the teachers. We are happy to be part of a program that gives back to those who most deserve it."

"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 community partners like the Atlanta Education Fund, we offer educators the opportunity to pursue areas of personal and professional interests and bring their experiences and energy back to the classroom."

This summer alone, more than 500 teachers from across the country embarked on their own personal odysseys around the world, including 20 from Atlanta. They include:

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- Michell Carter, Smith Elementary, assisted Earthwatch Institute scientists in gathering data on the endangered Hawksbill turtles in the Great Barrier Reef;
- Darlene Dobbs and Wendy Ahmed, Gideons Elementary, explored the discoveries of the ancient Egyptians in the areas of science, mathematics and linguistics;
- Aruna Kailasa, Mays High School, attended a teacher seminar at Cambridge University in England to strengthen her instructional strategies to improve student performance on standardized exams;
- Jeremy Kaplan-Lyman, South Atlanta High School, collected oral interviews of London's immigrants and created a digital archive that reflects different viewpoints about immigration outside the U.S.; and
- Mahdi Ibrahim, Southside High School, observed the implementation of a school math lab in Oromiyaa, Ethiopia, and studied its use in enhancing students' understanding and interest in mathematics.

“We are very supportive of this program. The teachers who participate always return to work reenergized with new knowledge and skills. The AEF's partnership with FFT will ensure that our teachers and students can continue to benefit”. – Dr. Beverly Hall, APS Superintendent

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. Winners are notified by April 2009.

FFT Fellow Grants are open to teachers who:

- Work with students in pre-K through 12th grade
- Have three or more years teaching experience
- Teach in the Atlanta Public Schools 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 the national donor-supported organization that awards 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. Since its inception in 1988 by Apache Corporation Chairman Raymond Plank, Fund for Teachers has awarded more than \$10.5 million in fellowships to 3,000 of America's best educators.

The Atlanta Education Fund's mission is to galvanize community support to accelerate and sustain student achievement in Atlanta's public schools. Its goal is to enhance the community's capacity to lead, support, monitor, and advocate for effective education reforms for all students of the district. The AEF will focus on two key functions to carry out its mission: keeping the public informed and involved, and supporting & leading key reform initiatives in Atlanta's public schools.

Quotes from Fellows cited:

The light in my student's eyes when they see their teacher diving off of a speeding boat onto the back of a sea turtle soaring through the water to collect scientific data in order to help an endangered species is priceless. Personally, I found a new peace that is facilitating a deeper patience with my students – this was totally unexpected and as valuable as the deeper understanding I gained of the scientific process, ecosystems, and critical thinking related to problem solving.

- Michell Carter

This project allowed me to rediscover my love for learning in an ideal medium: conversations. Conversations with London's immigrants inspire me as an educator to make sure that my students have an opportunity to hear the voices from those affected by the issue of immigration. This fellowship gave me the unique opportunity to learn from the diverse communities which have made London the diverse city that it is today. At the same time, I gained insight into immigration, an issue that directly impacts my school community.

-Jeremy Kaplan-Lyman

This trip enabled me to understand the world and the universe beyond. The seminar has transformed my thoughts and made me more committed teacher to dedicate myself again as life time learner.

- Aruna Kailasa

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