

Fund for Teachers: An Outstanding Professional Development Grant Opportunity



By Dale Bernardoni, Fund for Teachers CT Managing Director

- Have you ever wished that you could enable your teachers to engage in deep, professional learning experiences that would energize their teaching?
- Would you like your students to have the opportunity to demonstrate their learning through authentic performance?
- Can you envision that your school community would reap positive benefits if teachers were inspired to work more collaboratively with one another?

The Fund for Teachers is a privately funded non-profit agency that awards summer fellowship grants to Pre-K through Grade 12 teachers to pursue self-designed professional learning. Teachers decide what they want to learn and where they want to learn it. Their odysseys take them across the country and all over the world – as scientists, researchers, artists and agents of change – and they return to their classrooms with new ideas that transform student learning and achievement.

Eligible teachers must spend at least 50% of their work week in direct instruction. They must have at least three years of experience as a Pre-K-Grade 12 teacher, and they must be returning to the classroom in the following school year. **Individuals may apply for up to \$5,000 and teams may apply for up to \$10,000.**

During the summer of 2016, 118 Connecticut teachers were awarded grants, and they have travelled the globe expanding their life experiences in order to positively influence their instruction and transform student learning. **In the coming year, the Fund for Teachers intends to identify 250 applicants to receive grants to become Fellows.** Applications will be available at fundforteachers.org beginning on October 1, 2016. They must be submitted by January 31, 2017 to be eligible for summer, 2017 experiences.

This opportunity is provided at no cost to the school system and without the need of significant administrative support. **If you would like to share information about Fund for Teachers with your staff, visit www.fundforteachers.org or contact Dale Bernardoni, the Fund for Teachers CT Managing Director, at dbernardoni@comcast.net to receive information or to arrange for a faculty presentation.** This outstanding opportunity has the potential to transform your teachers and your school in significant and exciting ways...