



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**October 21, 2009**

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Weekly E-Newsletter

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **Race to the Top webinar now available online**
- **Department, Commission on Arts survey schools on arts education**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **RACE TO THE TOP WEBINAR NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE (GO TO TOP)**

In partnership with representatives of educational stakeholder groups across Idaho, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna hosted a webinar this week to update superintendents, school board trustees and other educators on Idaho's plans to apply for the federal Race to the Top grant.

An archived copy of the webinar is available on the State Department of Education's Race to the Top web page at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/race/>.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has discretion over \$5 billion through the federal stimulus package, known as the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Secretary Duncan has said he will make \$4.35 billion available to states through competitive Race to the Top grants to encourage and reward states that are creating and implementing education innovation and reform.

The Race to the Top funds will be a great opportunity for Idaho public schools to receive additional resources to invest in innovation reforms that will help raise student achievement, increase graduation rates and prepare Idaho students to be successful in life after high school.

Superintendent Luna has been working with representatives from the Idaho Association of School Administrators, Idaho Superintendents Association, Idaho Education Association and Idaho School Boards Association since early September to develop ideas for Idaho's Race to the Top application. The webinar provided an update on this group's progress to date.

To learn more about Race to the Top or to submit comments or questions, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>.



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### DEPARTMENT, COMMISSION ON ARTS SURVEY SCHOOLS ON ARTS EDUCATION (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education and the Idaho Commission on the Arts invite all building principals to take part in a new online survey that will track the status of arts education in Idaho on an annual basis. The information collected through this survey will be synthesized and packaged to provide the Department and Commission with an annual snapshot of the state of arts education in our state.

If you are the principal of more than one school, we ask that a survey be completed for each of the schools you lead, either by you or another member of the school's staff.

The survey can be accessed online at [http://www.isalient.com/app/index.php?survey\\_code=40dfb060&login=1](http://www.isalient.com/app/index.php?survey_code=40dfb060&login=1).

The survey is available online until **December 4, 2009**. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Wenner at (208) 332-6949 or [pjwenner@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:pjwenner@sde.idaho.gov).

### SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will speak to the 2009 Leadership Boise class at 8:30 a.m. MT on Thursday, October 22 in Meridian.
- Superintendent Luna will visit the Lights On After School Program at Maxine Johnson Elementary School at 5 p.m. MT on Thursday, October 22 in Parma.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Idaho Bureau for Education Services for the Deaf and the Blind at 2 p.m. on Monday, October 26 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak to the Foundations in Education class at Boise State University at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 27 in Boise.

### WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Publication of Annual Statement of Financial Condition** – As required by Idaho Code 33-701(5), Idaho public school districts and charter schools must prepare and publish their annual statement of financial condition by no later than **October 28, 2009**. The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms include three different formats that may be used for publication. Please see the 2008-2009 Annual Report Pages 98-107 at [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/ifarms\\_forms.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm) for these examples. Specifically, look at pages 105-107. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Green Thumb Challenge** -- The Green Education Foundation is sponsoring the Green Thumb Challenge, calling on classrooms and schools to plant 10,000 indoor or outdoor gardens during the spring 2010. GEF's website provides gardening instructions, checklists for school approvals, plot location guidelines; container garden



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suggestions, funding resources (including grant templates) garden plans, vegetable and flower suggestions and much more. Green Thumb Challenge lessons link gardening to science, math, language arts, creative arts and technology. Schools that sign up for the program by **December 15, 2009** will have the opportunity to win gardening kits which include gardening tools, gloves and seeds. Learn more online at [www.GreenEducationFoundation.org](http://www.GreenEducationFoundation.org).

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11** -- According to Idaho Code 33-512, "Each Veterans Day, each school in session shall conduct and observe an appropriate program of at least one (1) class period remembering and honoring American veterans ..." To assist Idaho schools program planning, the State Department of Education has posted the lesson plan *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty* online at [http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/social\\_studies/](http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/social_studies/). This lesson plan is to be used in conjunction with the book by the same name. A donation of this book has been made to each high school library through the generosity of Albertsons and in cooperation with the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. The lesson plan will allow students to focus on the true meanings of courage, sacrifice and patriotism as they explore America's history. Many other lesson ideas, school kits, and teacher resources about Veterans' Day can also be found at the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs web site at <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>.
- **Reserve a Family Math Night kit for your school** -- As part of the Idaho Math Initiative, the State Department of Education has partnered with the Micron Technology Foundation to donate *Math Fun d'Mentals* Family Math Night Kits to schools and districts across Idaho. We distributed 45 kits in April 2009 and are ready to distribute another 45 kits this October. These kits contain games, activities, materials and everything you need to host a Family Math Night -- except the volunteers. Visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/FamilyMathNight/> to see if your local school district has a Family Math Night kit available for your school. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Katie Walker at [kwalker@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:kwalker@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Parents, Principals, and Librarians to Discuss School Libraries** -- This month, State Librarian Ann Joslin sent a letter of invitation to all school principals and librarians to attend a "Partnerships and Conversations" meeting near them. In November and December, the Idaho Commission for Libraries will facilitate 16 small group gatherings in elementary and middle school library settings. The two-hour sessions are designed to bring together school librarians, parents, and school administrators to discuss the role of a strong school library program in student academic success. In addition, the use of technology in the school library and the value of partnerships will be explored. To learn more, visit [libraries.idaho.gov/SLPartners](http://libraries.idaho.gov/SLPartners).
- **Spring MTI Course schedule now posted** -- The State Department of Education has posted the schedule for Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) courses in Spring 2010. To learn more, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>.
- **Health Educator Training** -- The State Department of Education is offering health educator training on the 7/8 Grade F.L.A.S.H. (Family Life and Sexual Health) Curriculum. F.L.A.S.H. is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that has been adopted and widely used in schools in Washington and throughout the United States. The curriculum aligns with current National Health Education Standards, which are being used to model the updates to Idaho Health Education Standards. Three two-day training sessions will be held November 11-12, 2009 in Coeur



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d'Alene, January 27-28, 2010 in Boise, and February 24-25, 2010 in Pocatello. To learn more or to register, please visit [www.centerforhealthtraining.org](http://www.centerforhealthtraining.org). If you have questions, contact Lisa Kramer, HIV/Health Education Coordinator, at (208) 332-6947 or [lkramer@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:lkramer@sde.idaho.gov).

- **Financial Literacy Challenge** -- The Students In Free Enterprise team at the University of Florida is conducting the 3rd annual Financial Literacy Challenge for high school students. The UF SIFE Financial Literacy Challenge is a multiple choice, multiple-round, online quiz competition about basic financial literacy topics. Visit [www.knowmoremoney.org](http://www.knowmoremoney.org) to learn more and download study materials. This year, the competition will award \$2,000 to the first, second, and third place winners.
- **Register now for Idaho School Boards Conference** -- The Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) will host its annual convention November 11-13, 2009 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene. For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.idsba.org> or contact Misty Jones at [misty@idsba.org](mailto:misty@idsba.org).
- **Celebrate School Bus Safety Week** -- Join the State Department of Education in celebrating School Bus Safety Week on October 19-23 to recognize the important contributions the transportation community makes to education in Idaho. Safe bus rides to and from school are a necessary part of our education system and help make our communities wonderful places to live.
- **Alternate Authorization deadline is November 3** -- The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will meet to review Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests on **November 3, 2009**. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Lackey, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. Only complete packets will be reviewed. Incomplete packets will be returned. Please be sure to sign the application and include board minutes. If you have questions, please contact Cina Lackey at (208) 332-6936 or [CLackey@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLackey@sde.idaho.gov). You can mail applications to:  
State Department of Education  
ATTN: Cina Lackey  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
Boise, ID 83720-0027
- **Hispanic Youth Summit** -- The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs is hosting the fourth annual Hispanic Youth Summit on October 30, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. To register, please visit [www2.state.id.us/icha](http://www2.state.id.us/icha) or contact Juan Saldaña at [juan.saldana@icha.idaho.gov](mailto:juan.saldana@icha.idaho.gov) or (208) 334-3776.
- **IEA Cold Hard Cash Awards** -- The Idaho Education Association is offering Cold Hard Cash awards for Idaho classrooms. The IEA will draw eight winners each month from September through May. Each winner will receive \$50 to be used to upgrade his/her classroom. The entry form is available at [idahoea.org/explore-iea/awards/cold-hard-cash](http://idahoea.org/explore-iea/awards/cold-hard-cash). Just click on the "Cold Hard Cash" icon and submit your completed form. If your name is drawn, you will receive a check from IEA to use in your classroom. If you don't win, your name will be placed in the drawing for the next month. Please note: Only "New Teachers" (those in their first through fifth year of teaching) are eligible to win.



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- **Project Learning Tree professional development** -- Project Learning Tree now offers online registration and payment for its professional development workshops. Visit [www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm) for the class schedule and more information.
- **Program to support children with parents in National Guard and Reserve** -- The Idaho National Guard Family Programs Office will sponsor a *Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute* in February 2010. The Institute is a two-day professional development program designed for school counselors, administrators, other school personnel, and family support personnel of the National Guard and Reserves. The purpose of the training institute is to prepare school personnel to recognize and address issues that children face when a parent is deployed by the National Guard or Reserves. Those interested in attending are encouraged to contact Michael Judah, Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) MOS Consultant, at (208) 570-3746 or [michael.g.judah@militaryonesource.com](mailto:michael.g.judah@militaryonesource.com), or contact Annie Henna Estvold, State Youth Coordinator, at (208) 272-4387 or [annie.henna@id.ngb.army.mil](mailto:annie.henna@id.ngb.army.mil).
- **Online teacher evaluation training now available** -- The State Department of Education is offering all Idaho educators free online training for the new statewide standards for teacher performance evaluations based on the Charlotte Danielson Teaching Framework. The online program is jointly produced by Charlotte Danielson and Educational Impact Inc. to allow teachers and evaluators to see what the Danielson Framework components look like in real classrooms. For more information on the statewide framework or the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/>. If you have any questions, please contact Nick Smith at (208) 332-6959 or [NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Title II-A webinar series** -- The State Department of Education is hosting a series of IdahoLive webinars focused on Title II-A funds through January. Joe Burris, Title II-A Coordinator, will host each webinar. For more information, visit [www.idahodigitallearning.org](http://www.idahodigitallearning.org), click on the "IdahoLive" tab and then click the "Future Webinars" link. If you miss a webinar, the entire series will be archived online at: [http://www.idahopd.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab\\_tab\\_group\\_id=204\\_1](http://www.idahopd.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_group_id=204_1).
- **H1N1 information for schools** -- The State Department of Education is working with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to update the H1N1 information webpage online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/flu/>. Please check this page regularly for the most up-to-date information to help you prepare for potential Pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza cases in schools. If you have any questions, please contact the local health district in your area. For a full list of contacts, please visit <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/HealthDistricts/tabid/97/default.aspx>.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or [david.a.hodson@mecom.army.mil](mailto:david.a.hodson@mecom.army.mil) or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or [colleen.owen@mecom.army.mil](mailto:colleen.owen@mecom.army.mil). Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or [fred.bernize@mecom.army.mil](mailto:fred.bernize@mecom.army.mil).



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### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Oct. 28, 2009** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to prepare and publish their annual statement of financial condition as required by Idaho Code 33-701(5). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms include three different formats that may be used for publication. Please see the 2008-2009 Annual Report Pages 98-107 at [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/ifarms\\_forms.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm) for these examples. Specifically, look at pages 105-107. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit the annual enrollment options survey to the State Department of Education. Idaho Code Section 33-1402, requires the State Department of Education to conduct an annual survey regarding enrollment options in school districts across Idaho. Please complete the survey online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/AnnualEnrollmentOptionsSurvey.asp>. If you have questions please contact Camille Wells at (208) 332-6812 or [cwells@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:cwells@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit your application for the 2010 United States Senate Youth Program funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Principals in every high school were mailed a packet of information in August explaining the scholarship process, timelines for completion, and student eligibility requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline for students to postmark submissions for the Idaho Forest Products Commission's 15th annual Essay Contest in observance of National Forest Products Week, October 18-24. The contest is open to all K-12 students in Idaho. Visit [www.idahoforests.org/essay\\_contest.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/essay_contest.htm) for contest guidelines, writing prompts, scoring criteria and prize information. All who write an essay receive a Certificate of Participation. Contact IFPC at [plt@idahoforests.org](mailto:plt@idahoforests.org) with any questions.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the RTI District Leadership Summit in Idaho Falls, which will be held on November 19, 2009. For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/>.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline for submissions for the Idaho National Laboratory's 60th Celebration Student Video Contest, which includes several \$500 cash prizes for winning middle- and high-school classrooms. Idaho middle and high school students are encouraged to prepare a two- to five-minute video or podcast on the topic: What 60 Years of INL's Energy Innovation Means to a New Generation of Energy Consumers. The purpose of this contest is to enhance students' research and fact-finding skills and to educate them on the types of energy we use today and INL's contributions to the evolution of our national energy landscape. More information is available at [https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_291\\_45875\\_0\\_0\\_18/60th%20Anniversary%20Contest.final.pdf](https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_291_45875_0_0_18/60th%20Anniversary%20Contest.final.pdf).
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline for all local school districts and public charter schools to submit Financial Status Reports for the previous fiscal year online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/accounting/FederalPrograms/default.asp>. These reports are not affected by the change to the Grant Reimbursement Application and should be filled out the same as they have been in previous years.
- **Oct. 31, 2009** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit their 2008-2009 IFARMS Annual Financial Report as required by Idaho Code 33-701(7). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms and



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supporting documents can be found at [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/ifarms\\_forms.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm). If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov).

- **Oct. 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for awards up to \$500 for Teacher Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. All educators are eligible for the awards. Each teacher must submit a short application describing the continuing education opportunity or class project, an itemized budget, and the academic benefit for students. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org). All awards are competitive.
- **Oct. 31, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the upcoming Idaho H<sub>2</sub> Education Workshop, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen Program, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Idaho State Department of Education, Northwest Nazarene University, and the NEED Project. The workshop gives classroom teachers (grades 6-12) a unique opportunity to learn about hydrogen and participate in hands-on activities to teach students about hydrogen. The workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 7, 2009 at Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) in Nampa. The workshop is free. To register, visit [www.regonline.com/idahohydrogen](http://www.regonline.com/idahohydrogen). If you have questions or need further information, contact Wendi Moss at [wmoss@need.org](mailto:wmoss@need.org) or 800-875-5029.
- **Nov. 1, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for Care and Share grants, which provide up to \$500 in funding for K-12 public school teachers and students to assist in the implementation of community service projects in the classroom. For more information, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn\\_serve/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn_serve/). If you have questions, contact Tina Naillon at (208) 332-6904 or [tmnaillon@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:tmnaillon@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Nov. 2, 2009** -- The deadline for Idaho schools and districts to post a link on their websites to the state online School Report Cards, as required under No Child Left Behind. The Report Card provides an in-depth look at student achievement at the state, local and school levels with the click of a button. These reports are a great way for Idaho parents and citizens to see how Idaho schools are performing. The School Report Cards are available at [www.sde.idaho.gov/reportcard](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/reportcard).
- **Nov. 6, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark entries for the State Department of Education's 2009 Holiday Card Contest. One drawing is selected for the Department's holiday greeting and posted online at [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov). The contest is open to all public school students in grades K-6. Please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov) and download the rules and regulations posted under the "Latest News" section on the home page. If you have questions, please contact Melissa McGrath, the Department's Public Information Officer, at (208) 332-6818 or [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Nov. 10, 2009** -- The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit their 2008-2009 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the audit report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov).



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- **Nov. 20, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark an application for the 2009 Qwest Foundation for Education Grant, which is awarded to Idaho K-12 public school classroom educators who demonstrate innovative uses of technology in the classroom. Visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech\\_services/grants\\_contracts.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm) to download the application form. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or [JTakata@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JTakata@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Dec. 1, 2009** -- The deadline for school districts to apply for professional development grants. The State Department of Education is providing a School Improvement grant opportunity for professional development. School districts that receive Title I-A funding may apply for additional financial support in order to fund the basic costs of educators who participate in Idaho Online Professional Development (I-OPD) workshops. Visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title\\_one/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/) and look under "Grant Opportunities" to apply. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Underwood at [sunderwood@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:sunderwood@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6922.
- **Dec. 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. Teachers new to their district or grade level are eligible for the awards. Each teacher submits a short application describing their needs for setting up their classroom. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org). All awards are competitive.
- **Jan. 8, 2010** -- The deadline to apply for NanoTeach's year-long, nationwide pilot program for high school teachers. The program starts in the summer of 2010. Utilizing the *Designing Effective Science Instruction (DESI)* framework, teachers will learn to integrate nanoscience and technology content (NS&T) into their *existing* curricula. Through lessons and experiences that model the *DESI* instructional framework, participants will investigate dynamic NS&T content while delving into strategies that support effective science teaching. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.mcrel.org/NanoTeach/Recruiting>.
- **Jan. 15, 2010** -- The deadline to apply for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards Program, which offers fellowships to highly accomplished U.S. and international teachers to conduct research, take courses for professional development, lead master-level seminars, and engage in other activities such as in-service training for local teachers. During the program Distinguished Teachers will work towards the completion of a capstone project of their own design. To learn more, visit [www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org](http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org) for application forms. For questions, please contact [fulbrightdat@aed.org](mailto:fulbrightdat@aed.org).