

## INFORMATION for SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program seeks to improve mutual understanding among teachers, their schools and communities in the U.S. and abroad through offering intensive professional development opportunities for K-12 educators. Teachers go abroad at any time during the academic year for 3-6 months within eligible program dates in the host country. The U.S. Department of State sponsors the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program ([www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org](http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org)) in coordination with the Institute of International Education (IIE), U.S. Embassies and Consulates, Fulbright Commissions and other partners overseas. While abroad each teacher will be based at a host university, will work with local K-12 schools, and will engage in extensive professional development opportunities.

### PROGRAM COMPONENTS for U.S. TEACHERS

While abroad, each teacher will:

1. **Courses:** Audit one to two courses at their host university. Each course will relate to the teacher's project and/or subject area
2. **Local School Visits:** Observe classes and offer workshops/seminars in local schools
3. **Virtual Collaborative Forum:** Participate in a virtual community with other U.S. and international participants to collaborate and share educational best practices from countries around the world;
4. **Inquiry Project:** Complete a project of their own design that is of direct, practical relevance to classroom/educational practice

#### SCHOOL BENEFITS

- ✓ Integration of global perspectives and methods into classroom practice
- ✓ Increase global awareness of students and staff
- ✓ Increased ability to work with culturally diverse populations
- ✓ Develop cross-national school partnerships

#### TEACHER BENEFITS

- ✓ Cross-cultural understanding and skills
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Study and observe international best practices in education
- ✓ Share professional expertise with host country teachers and students
- ✓ Develop leadership skills
- ✓ Develop networks with educators across the globe

### LEAVE AUTHORIZATION

U.S. Teachers must obtain approval from their Principal/Head Master and District Superintendent (or Head of School) to support their application to this program. Administrators must approve or disapprove a three to six month leave of absence from the school district on a Leave Authorization Form in order for applicants to be eligible for this program. The leave can be granted with or without salary. Although leave with pay is encouraged, candidates are eligible to participate in the program regardless of salary provisions authorized by school officials. If awarded, this program covers the program costs for teachers while abroad but this program does not cover a teacher's salary.

### PROGRAM IMPACT

*"The influences of Finland can be found not only in the changes I have made personally, but in the way my classroom is run. As a high school teacher in Washington DC, I have begun to trust my students more to make the right choice and to follow their interests into deeper understanding of concepts and standards. I have created a classroom that is much more student-led than teacher-led and allows student interest to dictate curriculum decisions."*

- Karen Lee, U.S. Teacher to Finland 2012-2013

*"I can't recommend this opportunity strongly enough to someone who wants to have every fiber of them challenged. It is a marathon, and your teaching career, your relationships with yourself and others, and your view of yourself as a global citizen will benefit immeasurably. I don't regret a second of this experience. and I am so grateful to Fulbright."*



**FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED AWARDS IN TEACHING PROGRAM**  
**Leave Authorization Form**

1. Name of the Applicant : Thomas Vranesich

2. School Name and Location : Franklin Avenue Middle School, Franklin lakes, New Jersey, United States

3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPROVING ADMINISTRATOR: Please complete the following sections and sign this form to certify your approval or disapproval of a three to nine month (U.S. teacher) or four month (international teacher) leave of absence for the above applicant. The majority of U.S. teacher programs are between three and six months in duration. Indicate the type of leave to be granted below and whether or not your teacher has undergone a criminal background check. Return this completed form to the applicant in hard copy or via email prior to the application deadline so it can be submitted with the application. Please see our program website to learn more about our program at [www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org](http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org) *We strongly encourage applicants and administrators to consult before completing this form.*

The above applicant is employed by our school or school system. The applicant has, in my judgment, superior qualifications and will be an excellent representative of our educational system abroad. If we and all other necessary parties agree to the proposed assignment, the following leave of absence will be approved and the applicant will be released under the conditions checked below to accept a grant under the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program. **A leave of absence must be granted to the applicant for him/her to be eligible for this program. This leave can be granted with or without salary. Although leave with pay is encouraged, candidates are eligible to participate in the program regardless of salary provisions authorized by school officials.**

Approve                       With salary                       Without salary

According to institutional/district procedures, we conducted a criminal background check of the applicant at the time of his/her employment.

Yes                      No  
                     

The above applicant is employed by our school or school system and will not be granted a leave of absence. Checking the box in this section will make the applicant ineligible to participate in the program.     Disapprove

**Approving Administrative Official Signature**

**Note:** This form must be completed and signed by the person (Superintendent or School System/District Official) who is officially authorized to approve participation in the program, grant a leave of absence and approve the appropriate salary arrangements for the school or school system in which the applicant is employed.

Title: Dr.	Last Name : Furnari	First Name : Lydia	Job Title : Superintendent
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School Email: <a href="mailto:lfurnari@franklinlakes.k12.nj.us">lfurnari@franklinlakes.k12.nj.us</a>	Telephone: 201-891-1856
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**Signature of Administrative Official (Superintendent or School System/District Official):**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_