



**(Note to reporters/editors: 2006 marks the 19<sup>th</sup> year for this popular program. Virtually all educators in your area probably will be interested in these fellowships.)**

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### Lilly Endowment announces 2006 Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program, with a twist

Teachers and principals in this year's Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program "went underground" in Rome to see ancient monuments, studied lighthouses in New England, wrote a children's book about unicorns, studied arts in Kenya and Ethiopia, painted in Paris, played the dulcimer and built guitars, learned from family members in the "greatest generation," studied the Iditarod dogsled race in Alaska and "creepy crawlies" in national parks, examined historic pipe organs in Europe, cooked in France, and photographed wildflowers in the Rockies.

Similar opportunities for personal renewal are available for those wishing to participate in 2006, the 19<sup>th</sup> year for the popular program. The fellowship program encompasses K-12 licensed classroom teachers, guidance counselors, resource teachers and library/media specialists, plus principals and assistant principals in Indiana public and private schools with at least three years' experience. Also eligible are former Teacher Creativity fellows who received their award before 1999.

Each recipient will receive a grant of \$8,000. The Endowment will provide up to 120 awards. Teachers participate in a six-week, full-time project in the summer which

Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program  
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must be completed by Aug. 31, 2006. The fellowship period, however, will run through May 2007 so recipients will have extra time for their renewal work, to expand their projects or develop connections to classroom teaching or learning.

Principals and assistant principals, who may not have extensive time available during the summer, may propose time lines that, over the course of a full year, will allow them to engage in renewal activities that fit their schedules.

New for 2006 is a twist – another level of funding for an experimental program that will allow K-12 teachers (including guidance counselors and library/media specialists) to apply for an individual award for up to \$25,000.

For these awards, applicants are invited to propose plans to improve their work by enhancing their knowledge and rekindling their dedication to the teaching profession. A plan may entail a personal journey of reflection and discovery; it may involve studying a new discipline in some depth. Such plans may require the teacher to be away from home during the academic year – to study in the United States or abroad, to immerse one's self in another culture for a period of time.

In such cases, the Endowment may, upon request, award additional funding up to \$25,000 to the teacher's school district to cover all or part of the cost of a replacement teacher for up to one semester.

The Endowment will approve in this round up to five awards to teachers and up to five grants to school districts. Grant activities may take place anytime between June 1, 2006, and Aug. 31, 2007.

Applications for either variant of the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program must be postmarked by Dec. 1. Notification of grant awards will be made in early March; grant payments will be made after mid-March.

For specific questions about the program, application procedures or grant-writing tips, please contact the Endowment by e-mail, [info@teachercreativity.org](mailto:info@teachercreativity.org), or consult the Web site, [www.lillyendowment.org](http://www.lillyendowment.org) and click on Education, then on Teacher Creativity.