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## **2012 will mark 25<sup>th</sup> year for Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program**

As the thousands of teachers, principals, counselors and librarians joined the students and headed back to schools all across Indiana, 120 of them had special what-I-did-this-summer tales to relate. They were the beneficiaries of the popular Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program, and Lilly Endowment is pleased to announce it will be back next year for its 25<sup>th</sup> season.

So far, more than 2,320 Indiana educators have taken their fellowships in hand and roamed the world to explore opportunities they have long dreamed of. Passports in hand, this summer's fellows set down in at least 37 countries from Argentina to Zimbabwe. They enjoyed the cuisines of Mexico and Italy. They studied cultural history of Delhi in India, hand drumming in the Caribbean, geology in Norway, aboriginal art in Australia, family histories in Romania and Poland, dance in Thailand, gardens in the Netherlands, and hat making and hummingbirds in Ecuador.

They volunteered at medical missions and foundations, learned Swahili in Kenya, explored Ireland by train, painted in France, learned how to play new musical instruments (masimba and mbira) in Zimbabwe, absorbed the traditions of Ethiopia, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, played with the pandas in China, and rumbled through three huge countries on the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

Others stayed in the United States and found an equally diverse panorama of activities. They attended forensic sculpting sessions at a medical school, followed the trail of Lewis and Clark, took a cross-country, six-week railroad trip to visit antique shops and historic locations, studied energy and the environment, and explored the Old West by visiting frontier towns like Dodge City, Tombstone and Chloride. They learned about the Native Americans in Alaska, searched back-road junkyards to find a classic vehicle to restore, fly-fished in Montana, visited all 19 presidential libraries, observed wild horses in seven states, built a canoe, studied telescopes and viewed the night sky in Wyoming, explored the sights and sounds of jazz in New Orleans and New York, and painted Civil War battlefields.

(more)

2012 Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program  
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But now it is time to look ahead to next summer and the Teacher Creativity Fellowship class of 2012. A total of 120 awards of \$8,000 each will be made to public and private K-12 licensed teachers, principals and assistant principals, guidance counselors and librarians/media specialists to support creative projects.

These projects will take place during six weeks next summer and must be completed by Aug. 31, 2012. The grant period, however, will run through May 2013 so that recipients can report how the grant activities have influenced their work in the classroom.

“The best teachers know that learning never ends,” said Sara B. Cobb, Endowment vice president for education. “These teachers are curious. They are articulate and enthusiastic. They are eager to share. We have teachers return and tell us the fellowship was a life-changing experience and the ‘biggest adventure of my life.’”

“We are constantly amazed and gratified by the enthusiasm the teachers bring to these projects, the lessons they learn and the people they meet. The excitement they bring back to the students in their classrooms is contagious,” Cobb added.

All applicants must have at least three years of professional experience to be eligible for this competitive program. Also, former Teacher Creativity fellows who received their award before 2005 are eligible to apply for a second award in the 2012 program.

Applications for the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program must be postmarked by Nov. 4. Notification of grant awards will be made by Feb. 24, 2012; grant payments will be made in due course after March 15.

For specific questions about the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program, application procedures or grant-writing tips, please consult the Endowment’s website, [www.lillyendowment.org](http://www.lillyendowment.org), and click on Education, then on Teacher Creativity. You may also contact the Endowment by email, [teachercreativity@lei.org](mailto:teachercreativity@lei.org).