

## For Immediate Release

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## 2006 Press Announcement

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### Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program Applications Available

The Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program allows distinguished primary and secondary school educators in the U.S. to travel to Japan for three weeks in an effort to promote greater intercultural understanding between the two nations. This year up to 400 educators from all over the United States will be selected to participate in the 2007 program.

Participating educators will begin their visit in Tokyo with a practical orientation on Japanese life and culture and meetings with Japanese government officials and educators. They then will travel in groups of 20 to selected host cities where they will have direct contact with Japanese teachers and students during visits to primary and secondary schools as well as a teachers college. They also will visit cultural sites and local industries in addition to a brief homestay with a Japanese family.

The Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund, based in Tokyo, oversees all aspects of the Teacher Program. The program is sponsored by the Government of Japan and was launched in 1997 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. government Fulbright Program, which has enabled more than 6,000 Japanese citizens to study in the U.S. on Fulbright fellowships for graduate education and research. The Institute of International Education acts as the agency for the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund to coordinate the recruitment and pre-departure activities of the Teacher Program in the United States.

In 2007, up to four hundred educators from all 50 states and the District of Columbia will be invited to visit Japan in June and October (200 in each group). To date, more than 5,200 primary and secondary educators visited Japan through the JFMF Teacher Program. Upon their return, program participants share what they have learned about Japan with their students and communities through a variety of outreach projects.

Primary and secondary school educators throughout the United States can apply to take part in one of the two trips to Japan scheduled for 2007, as guests of the Japanese Government. Teachers of all disciplines, including art, physical education, English, ESL, history, geography, math, science, and special education, from every region of the United States, are encouraged to apply. Applicants are not required or expected to have previous knowledge of Japanese or Japan. The application deadline for both 2007 trips is December 7, 2006. For more information about the 2007 competition, please refer to <http://www.fulbrightmemorialfund.jp> or contact 1-888-527-2636 (1-888-Japan-FMF) or [jfmf@iie.org](mailto:jfmf@iie.org). All applications must be completed online.

**NOTE TO EDITOR:** Please refer to the program as the “Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program” or “JFMF Teacher Program.” Do not abbreviate as “Fulbright,” which refers to a separate program initiated by the U.S. government in 1946.

**Applications will be available at [www.iie.org/jfmf](http://www.iie.org/jfmf)**

**Deadline: December 7, 2006**

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### Quotations from JFMM Participants

“It has been an amazing journey taking me farther away than I have ever been before and yet bringing me closer to another country than I could have ever imagined.”

— Susan Herron, JFMM 2000 Participant

“In today’s world of uncertainty, the understanding of other languages, people and cultures is of critical importance. JFMM offers immeasurable value to American educators.”

— Nancy R. Campbell, JFMM 2001 Participant

“I get an opportunity to represent the United States at a time when I think our country is really in need of having good representation, and I get to go see Japan and bring back a culture to my students.”

— Sue Madole, JFMM 2002 Participant

*The Daily Oklahoman*, June 3, 2002

“I thought if I could experience this myself, what I could bring to the kids would be incredible.”

— Penny Wagher, JFMM 2002 Participant

*The Register-Mail*, April 7, 2002

“The Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program left an indelible mark on my life as an educator. This trip was a priceless experience that will leave a lasting impression on how I approach the problems facing education in this country.”

— Alexander Quigley, JFMM 2002 Participant

“My experience in Japan was beyond what I ever dreamed, and this opportunity has had a powerful impact on my life, both personally and professionally. This opportunity for American teachers is a huge step toward encouraging our students to gain a better understanding of the world.”

— Janet Tift, JFMM 2002 Participant

“In a time when the world suffers misunderstandings between cultures and nations, and tries to solve problems with war and power, I feel truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to build a small piece of understanding between the United States and Japan.”

— Lynnea Venieris, JFMM 2003 Participant