

LPS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE TEACHERS FUND

DESCRIPTION: For the past six years, the U.S. State Department has funded teachers from other countries to come to UNL to improve their knowledge and skills. This experience includes a two-week internship with LPS teachers in their classrooms. During the program, more than 150 international teachers have attended workshops and are exposed to the use of technology in the classroom and its use to enhance learning.

The international teachers represent some of the poorest nations in the world. Their monthly salary in their home countries range from US \$30 to \$300.

The following is a request testimonial from one of the very talented teacher from Bangladesh, sent to the coordinator of the UNL program.

“Coming here I realized that Americans are always ready to help the people like me. You know I am a teacher of a secondary school. And I have come from a poor family.

My monthly income 5000 taka=about 72 dollars (\$1=70taka). I did not know that technology can help a teacher and students for effective teaching. Here I am learning a lot about technology, pedagogy and methods of teaching. My students do not know what is technology, what is laptop even they do not have any idea about computer. They have only read in the page of books about computer. So, going back, I would like to bring change of my institution and my students, and computer will be my first weapon. But it is very expensive for me to buy a computer. So, I am requesting you to find a way or a person who can help me and my students donating a laptop.

I shall be very grateful to you.”

While the program was originally designed to provide for poorer nations to improve the skills of their teachers, it has had the unintended result of raising the awareness of the American mentor teachers to the disparity of economic advantages in the countries of the visiting teachers. Many of these visiting teachers are unable to afford computers to use in their classrooms. It is with this in mind that the LPS International Exchange Teachers Fund will provide a mini laptop computer, other technology or shipping costs of books or materials for these teachers. The fund will allow them to put into practice the techniques and methods they have learned while in the United States.

CRITERIA: The LPS International Exchange Teachers Fund will provide financial support for an approved mini laptop computer Eee PC (\$350.00 each) to be purchased for international teachers, other technology purchases, or financial support to help defer shipping costs to send books or materials to their home country. The number of awards will depend on donation amounts each year. Computer or technology purchases will travel back with the awarded teacher.

APPLICATION: To apply, international exchange teachers should complete the application included on the following pages. Submit completed applications by _____ (date) to:

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, Attn: Exchange Teachers Fund, 5901 O Street,
Lincoln, NE 68510.

SELECTION: Recipients of the LPS International Exchange Teachers Fund will be selected each year by the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools with recommendations from a committee of educational professionals and non-educational professionals in the Lincoln community.

LPS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE TEACHERS FUND APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Home Country: _____

LPS School (in which doing internship): _____

LPS Mentor Teacher: _____

UNL Mentor: _____

UNL Mentor's Phone Number: _____

UNL Mentor's Email: _____

On no more than two (2) attached pages, describe the following:

- Your experiences with the LPS internship program.
- What you have learned about using technology in the classroom.
- How money from this fund could help you in your home classroom (examples: mini-laptop computer, other technology items or shipping costs for books and new materials to be shipped to your home country). Please be specific.

Send your completed application form and attached pages to the following address by _____ (date):

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools
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5901 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

