



Time to Inspire Margie's Educators
2023 Fellowship recipients of up to \$12,000

March 2023

Dylan Bell

Pine View School

"Dr. Bell's First Trip Across the Pond" – An experience across Scotland and Ireland to explore locations critical to the development of Astronomy as a field of scientific study.

Brianna Blount

McIntosh Middle School

"Jazz Festivals and the Sinking City" – A music teacher's visit to jazz festivals across Europe, including the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy.

Holly Brody

Brentwood Elementary School

"Permission Granted" – An experience across Portugal, Denmark, France, and Germany to explore food, art, education, and contentment (Known in Scandinavia as "hygge").

Michael Dutkiewicz

Gocio Elementary School

"A Journey into the History of Western Art" – An art educator's journey across Paris, Rome, and London to experience historical landmarks, buildings, and world-renowned pieces of art.



Timothy Ferguson

Garden Elementary School

“Fanfare for the Common Teacher – A joyful rejuvenation inspired by Aaron Copland” – A music teacher’s journey west to sightsee, film, and capture the beauty of the Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, and more.

LaShawn Frost

Booker Middle School

“The Global Influence of African Art and Safari: Exploring Major Art Forms of Culture and Creativity” – a cultural expedition across South Africa to examine art and its global influence.

Tara Green

Tuttle Elementary School

“African Expedition” – A 9-day National Geographic Expedition to experience Kruger and Victoria Falls while observing Africa’s most iconic wildlife.

Erin Haughey

Riverview High School

“Portuguese & Italian Interlude” – Exploration of food, culture, music, and architecture along the Portugal coast, in Ancient Rome, Vatican City, the Amalfi Coast, and northern Italy.

Debra Markley

Sarasota High School

“Explorations Through the Lens” – A photography teacher’s well-overdue 12-day visit to beautiful Alaska. 29 years in the making, the experience will culminate in a photo exhibition within the Sarasota High School Gallery.



Michelle Miller

Gulf Gate Elementary School

“Pura Vida: Traveling with a Purpose in Costa Rica” – An Eco-Rainforest Adventure to plant native trees along the Savegre River, track the endangered tapir, tour local schools, and experience one of Earth’s most unique places.

Raul Quinoes

Heron Creek Middle School

“Re-Discovering Science” – A museum tour across London, Paris, Vienna, Greece, and Italy.

Christine Reagan

Booker Middle School

“Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat!: Cruising Through Foundations, History, and Tales in European Arts” – A 9-night Italian Riviera and France cruise complete with art, theatre, and music.

Ashley Roemer

Sarasota High School

“Highlands and Heaths: A Walk in the Footsteps of Literature and History” – From Glasgow to London, a journey by train to experience the sights and inspirations of literary and historical greats.

Marie Rosander

Pine View School

“Scotland, Rocks, Castles and Daughter time!” – An Earth & Space Science teacher’s dream journey that combines the study of the Earth with the history that lies above it.



Ashley Sanchez

Cranberry Elementary School

“Travel to the Land Down Under” – A three-week excursion across Australia and New Zealand, including visits to the Sydney Opera House and Great Barrier Reef.

Paulo Serrano

Venice High School

“¡Descubriendo la Magia de la Madre Patria: España! (Discovering the Magic of the Motherland: Spain!)” – A cultural exploration across Barcelona, Valencia, Granada, Malaga, Sevilla, and Cordoba to learn about Spain’s customs, traditions, and rich history.

Andrea Spritzer

Glenallen Elementary School

“Life on the Galapagos Islands” – A kindergarten teacher’s journey through Ecuador to photograph the world’s rarest and most interesting wildlife.

Carmen Turner

Cranberry Elementary School

“Art, Antiques and Adventures” – A visual arts teacher’s bucket list journey across Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Taos, New Mexico.

Andrius Vitkus

Pine View School

“Researching the Etymology of the English Language – My continuing path of being a WORD NERD” – An educator’s immersion in the roots of the English language with stops in London, Rome, Munich, Athens, and Paris.



[Kristen Carter & Bridget Rizza](#)

North Port High School

“All Aboard a High-Speed Train for a Journey into Exceptional European Classrooms!” (Group project) – A personal and professional development experience with a firsthand look at European classrooms to better understand mathematics achievement.

[Mary Dembinksi & Eileen Schmucker](#)

Venice High School

“Women’s Expedition: Climbing to New Heights” (Group project) – A 20-day cultural immersion in Peru, including a hike to Machu Picchu, tours of downtown Lima, the Qoricancha Temple, Lake Titicaca, and Ballestas Islands.

[Dena Henderson & Michelle Slay](#)

North Port High School

“Inspiring Artistic Educators” (Group project) – An 8-day arts immersion project in New York City, including visits to Broadway workshops, live performances, art museums, and more.

