This summer, 23 Nebraskan teachers representing 18 schools close their classroom doors and embark on life- and career-changing odysseys around the world which they designed to fuel personal and professional growth. Empowered by a Fund for Teachers fellowship, and in collaboration with the Malaika Foundation, these teachers will return to classrooms inspired and energized to share their experiences with students, colleagues and parents.

Elizabeth King and Sarah Jessick
Aldrich Elementary and Neihardt Elementary
Participate in the Orff Schulwerk Level III training at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX to enhance literacy teaching skills through music, song, play, movement and dance.

Mary Theresa Green
Alliance High School
Participate in a creativity workshop in Crete, Greece, to help students awaken, develop and engage their creativity.

Audrey Hanson
Alliance Middle School
Attend a language school in Costa Rica to hone the language skills and ELS teaching methods to enhance classroom instruction.

James Miller
Ewing Public School
Attend the Vermont Rural Food Systems Program at The University of Vermont to enhance teaching skills in sustainable agriculture.

Greg Holden
Friend Public School
Witness the visual effects of 2000+ years of art focus by Italy’s cities and countryside to help students broaden their perception of art and history.

Wendy Smith
Grandview Elementary
Study Europe’s art and architecture to help equip students with a better appreciation of Nebraska’s place in the world.

Mary Alice Konz
Horizon and Sunrise Middle Schools
Enroll in “Teaching Shakespeare through Performance” at London’s Globe Theater to introduce more students to the Bard and his plays.

Karen Dux
Jefferson Intermediate School
Travel to Beijing and Xian, China, to increase global and cultural awareness and then produce a Google Earth virtual field trip for students and educators.

Judy Biehl
Lexington Middle School
Travel to the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and other areas of Alaska to observe, photograph and study glacial formations and deposits.

Michelle Edmundson and Bradley Edmundson
Millard North High School
Explore the effects of WWI & II on Europe and how its countries are attempting to preserve and honor the memory of battles and soldiers to educate the next generation.

LeeAnn Vaughan and Francis Tworek
Omaha Public Schools Career Center and King Science & Technology Magnet
Travel to the Costa Rican rain forest with Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo to explore the biodiversity of the ecosystem while learning field study techniques.

Jennifer Troester
O’Neill Public Schools
Attend the Tapping in the Soul of Place Writer’s Workshop at The Centro Pokkoli Creative Writing Center in Vitorchiano, Italy, followed by an exploration of Italy to create a place-conscious writing curriculum.
Dinah Claus  
Papillion La Vista South High School  
Attend a Spanish immersion program in Cuernavaca, Mexico, to sharpen language skills and observe teaching methods that will enhance student learning.

Julia Schonewise and Jane Connealy  
Pius X High School  
Investigate Rwanda’s political and cultural dynamics that led to genocide and the factors necessary for reconciliation.

Adam Janda  
Seward Elementary  
Travel to Thailand to study the country’s indigenous music in order to develop curriculum to teach greater understanding of other cultures’ music.

Catherine Wittstruck and Carrie Burkey  
Scott Middle School  
Travel to Panama for a cultural and language immersion experience that will foster personal and professional growth and enrich curriculum.

Eric Sayre  
Westside High School  
Journey through the lives of great multicultural Midwestern American writers to make American literature more relevant to students.

Richard Saxer  
York High School  
Observe geometry’s relevance and application in prehistoric sites, architectural designs and art displays throughout England and Ireland.