

# KNIGHT FOUNDATION

## Newsletter

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### Seven sites to receive support for program training returning Peace Corps volunteers as teachers

Broadening the impact of a successful program that trains returning Peace Corps volunteers for hard-to-fill teacher positions in stressed U.S. public school systems is the subject of a \$331,663 grant.

The funding will support administrative and fellowship costs for seven universities where the Peace Corps has established the Fellows/USA Program. The institutions serve seven of 26 cities where Knight Foundation supports a broad range of community initiatives, including many in education.

"This grant enables a diverse and geographically dispersed group of universities to develop methods of non-traditional preparation of teachers and to establish important cooperative links to the local school systems," said A. Richardson Love Jr., Education Program officer. "Local systems will benefit by having a new, long-term source of able, energetic teachers who bring much-needed skills in teaching English as a

second language and dealing with the effects of poverty."

Launched in 1985 at Teachers College, Columbia University, the Fellows/USA Program places former Peace Corps volunteers in local schools as associate teachers. They learn by doing under the watchful eyes of fellow teachers and college faculty. The participants are also enrolled part-time at the sponsoring colleges and

universities in courses leading to a master's degree and state certification.

The fellows are paid by the school systems in which they work and in turn pay a portion of their tuition costs. Some fellows also receive need-based aid — loans that can be cancelled if they remain in teaching — and small fellowships that cover remaining program costs.

#### Institutions and Knight Foundation cities to be served

Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program sites and the communities of foundation interest are:

- Florida International University — Miami
- Georgia College — Milledgeville
- San Francisco State University — San Jose
- Temple University — Philadelphia
- University of Michigan — Detroit
- University of Southern California — Long Beach
- University of Southern Mississippi — Biloxi