



Press Release

New York City Teacher to Share Expertise in Bangladesh

Washington, DC – November 9, 2009 Rachel Sussman is one of 40 exceptional teachers from around the United States who has been selected by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State and IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) to participate in a two-way exchange program that provides professional development opportunities to secondary school teachers from around the world.

Sussman teaches social studies and history at Manhattan Country School in New York City and will be traveling to Bangladesh for two weeks in April, 2010.

“I am a passionate educator, excitedly building new programs at every opportunity,” stated Sussman. “I am eager to find a partner in this passion, to build a relationship with an international educator, and through this lens, address the needs of our global community in the coming years.”

During her two-week trip, Sussman and her international counterpart will discuss best teaching practices and related educational issues in Bangladesh with the host school teachers and with the wider community of educators. Other U.S. teachers will visit 18 countries in the Caucasus, South and Central Asia, Southeast Asia, South and Central America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Participants in the exchange will also visit local schools, parents’ committees and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), serve as guest speakers on U.S. education and culture, team-teach at their host schools, and conduct workshops for the teaching community on teaching methods and curriculum design.

Prior to the U.S. teachers’ visit, their international counterparts will have traveled to the United States to take part in a six-week professional development program at four U.S. universities. Their program will have helped them to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States.

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) is funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is implemented by IREX. Secondary teachers interested in applying for a TEA grant can visit http://www.irex.org/programs/tea/tea_us.asp for more information and to apply. The application deadline is December 1, 2009 for travel in spring or summer of 2011.

About IREX:

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of \$60 million and a staff of over 500 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 100 countries.

For more information about IREX, please visit www.irex.org.

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Rachel Sussman of Manhattan Country School will travel to Bangladesh for two weeks in April 2010 as part of the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program.