iEARN-USA Global Education Ambassadors

OVERVIEW

iEARN-USA (the International Education and Resource Network) seeks funds to support the professional development of a select group of educators and administrators across the U.S. known as Global Education Ambassadors. This cadre of experts hail from states such as MA, NC, NJ, NY, PA, TN and more. These regional Ambassadors promote innovative global education both inside and outside of the classroom through online learning between teachers and students in the US and internationally, known as “virtual exchange.”

The iEARN-USA Global Education Ambassadors conduct outreach and professional development activities for iEARN-USA. Global Education Ambassadors have years of experience and in-depth knowledge of virtual exchange, or technology-enabled, sustained, people-to-people education programs, through project-based learning. The Global Education Ambassadors promote global education and virtual exchange, lead online project and course facilitation, conduct workshops, create resources, and present in special global education initiatives and conferences throughout the year.

Nicolle Boujaber-Diederichs
High School Teacher, Orlando, FL
My Identity, Your Identity Project Facilitator
Online Course Facilitator
Presenter for iEARN at NCSS

“iEARN has opened my students’ eyes to a world full of unique cultures beyond Florida and Latin America and has broken many of their cultural stereotypes and misconceptions. The global relationships I’ve built with teachers in other countries through the projects and conferences have been life-changing and inspirational.”

THE NEED

Through their outreach and support, Global Education Ambassadors increase the number and diversity of educators and students engaged in virtual exchange activities. The iEARN community has been built from the strength of people-to-people connections, engaging 50,000 educators worldwide in project-based exchanges. When iEARN educators meet, connect, and learn from other educators in the network, they become engaged in a community of global change-makers and support one another in globalizing their classrooms.

For educators interested in online global education opportunities for their students, a quick internet search yields many opportunities and resources. It can be difficult for an educator new to virtual exchange to find the right project and build the necessary skills for collaborative learning. iEARN-USA Global Education Ambassadors play a key role as virtual exchange promoters and mentors. They network with, support, and guide these educators in integrating virtual exchange projects into their curriculum. Without this community of support and professional development opportunities, few educators participate in virtual exchange projects.

“iEARN empowers youth to make a difference in the world, but also inspires and encourages students to seek out relationships with other people to create a space where students from around the world can work together on accomplishing common goals and projects.

Barry Kramer
Elementary School Teacher, Quakertown, NJ
iEARN-USA Board Member
Learning Circles Project Facilitator
iEARN-USA’S VISION FOR EXPANDING THE REACH AND IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL EDUCATION AMBASSADORS

iEARN-USA has a dedicated and active group of 12 Global Education Ambassadors across the U.S. that network and guide other educators on a small scale. They facilitate online projects, share their experience at conferences, and share about virtual exchange opportunities with educators at their school.

iEARN envisions supporting and growing its U.S. educator member base through further developing the iEARN-USA Global Education Ambassadors. By supporting the development of the Global Education Ambassadors, more U.S. educators in key regions in the U.S. will be have access to and gain the skills for conducting virtual exchange projects.

1 Promotion and Outreach

In order to promote iEARN projects and raise awareness for virtual exchange opportunities, iEARN-USA will support Global Education Ambassadors as regional leaders to attend and present at national and regional education conferences, Global Education Ambassadors will promote virtual exchange opportunities to schools in their region through school visits, district gatherings, and at local networking events. iEARN-USA will support this promotion and outreach through sending member kits that include promotional materials, global project books, and teachers’ guides.

2 Member Training and Support

iEARN-USA will provide the Global Education Ambassadors with funds and resources to conduct a local workshop and a stipend to continue mentoring activities for new iEARN educators, including monthly phone calls, project lesson plan reviews, and online platform tours. The workshops will guide educators in developing the technical, collaborative, and organizational skills needed to participate fully in thematic online projects and to integrate them into the classroom and curriculum.

3 Professional Development

iEARN-USA values the continued growth, development, and professional learning of its members. iEARN will support Ambassadors to attend one professional development workshop in project-based learning, virtual exchange, education technology, or in their subject area. This provides an incentive for the Ambassadors and also allows them to share their experience with other professional networks. iEARN-USA will also support the Ambassadors in sharing, exchanging, and learning with one another through participation in a nationally organized Global Education Ambassadors meeting.