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Two Oregon Teachers Awarded Fulbrights for Japan-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Only 24 teachers awarded nationwide

Oregonians Julie Jansen and Adam Smith are two of just 24 teachers in the United States to receive Fulbright scholarships for the Japan-US Teacher Exchange Program for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). During joint conferences in San Francisco and Japan, Jansen and Smith will work with American and Japanese colleagues to develop curriculum in four focus areas: food and sustainable nutrition; environment; energy and resources; and international understanding and cooperation. Jansen and Smith will then bring ESD concepts to their



Oregon schools and communities by collaborating with related local organizations such as Portland Japanese Garden, Zenger Farm, and area arts education initiatives.

Jansen is in her second year as the Art Specialist for grades one through five at The International School in downtown Portland. She has developed an art curriculum that connects with the school's full immersion Spanish, Chinese and Japanese program and its diverse student body. When she returns from Japan, Jansen will infuse ESD and Japanese culture into her art program, and will work with classroom teachers to share her insights for the school's International Baccalaureate units of study. Jansen has taught art at schools in many different environments: inner city Chicago, a socio-economically mixed Cincinnati public school, and Munich International School. "These diverse experiences have shown me the discrepancies in the value systems, beliefs, and opportunities open to children. It is necessary to bridge this gap and develop more equitable educational opportunities throughout the world. Through the cross-

cultural pollination of ideas in programs such as this one, we can work to spread the UNESCO vision of education that is 'environmentally sound, socially equitable, culturally sensitive, and economically just'."

Adam Smith is a 6th grade teacher at Hood River Middle School in the Columbia River Gorge. "I applied to this program due to my belief in the saying 'think global, act local' and for my love of science and culture and the interface between them," Smith says. "I also believe that ESD provides a compelling project-based context for students to learn about important information in an applied and meaningful way. It helps students to become thoughtful problem solvers both in their immediate community and in the global community." Smith has also taught science at Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, and has interned with the National Park Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in ocean and wetlands education.

The International School provides a multicultural environment where children are fully immersed in Spanish, Japanese or Chinese language and culture. Children become fluent in another language, at home in other cultures, and engaged in math, science, social studies and arts. The International School was founded in 1990. Today it is an International Baccalaureate World School educating 465 students. www.intschool.org, 503-226-2496, 025 SW Sherman St, Portland 97201.