

Jennifer Chavez-Miller

USA to Finland

Home Institution: Mountain Mahogany Community School

Home: Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Teaching Area: Language Arts

Years of Teaching Experience: 14 years

Education: Master's Degree in Secondary Education



Teacher Profile: Jennifer Chavez-Miller teaches middle school students in the area of Social Studies at Mountain Mahogany Community School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Throughout her 14-year career, Jennifer has embraced international education, social justice, and equity as academic content and as her foundational educational philosophy. In 2010, Jennifer was recognized as a New Mexico Golden Apple Fellow and in 2013-2014. She has participated in the Teachers for Global Classroom program, traveling to Colombia to collaborate with American and Colombian educators. Jennifer will study in Finland from February to May 2015 as part of the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program. The focus of her research is an inquiry of how teachers in Finland create and implement curricula to prepare students for global engagement and citizenship.

Project Title: Global learning: Fostering knowledge, attitudes and skills for global citizenship

Project Overview: Jennifer's capstone project aims to support deep understanding of teaching for global competence through the perspectives of Finnish educators, students, and communities. Her primary objective is to analyze lessons and collaboration among teachers to identify strategies, assessment, resources, and learning objectives that illustrate the four global competencies: Students 1) investigate the world beyond their immediate environment, 2) recognize their own and others' perspectives, 3) communicate their ideas effectively with diverse audiences, and 4) translate their ideas into appropriate actions to improve conditions.

Through observations, conversations, focus groups, and interviews with teachers, students, and community members, Jennifer aims to document how teachers engage learners in the development of global competencies, attitudes, and values at all levels and with a focus on early childhood through middle level classrooms.

One goal is to seamlessly globalize the content and learning in her classroom. She aims to not only bring the world to her students, but to encourage her students to go out into the world. In addition, launching an online Global Competence Toolkit is a priority as a professional resource for grades K-8 teachers. This Toolkit will be designed to serve as a guide to discovery of practical, engaging, and standards-aligned lessons and activities.

At the heart of Jennifer's project is her desire to know how teachers create and implement curricula in systems where global education is prioritized at national, local and school levels. From her experiences in Finland, she will continue to enhance her own teaching

