



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Orangeburg Educator Selected as 2018 NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellow

Multifaceted yearlong learning journey to prepare Bessie Wright, students as global citizens



**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (June 22, 2017) – The NEA Foundation named Bessie Wright, a kindergarten educator at Marshall Elementary School in Orangeburg, as one of the 48 public school educators to become a member of this year’s class of Global Learning Fellows. Wright will spend a year building global competency skills (the capacity to understand and act on issues of global significance).

Bessie Wright also serves The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) as President of their Orangeburg District 5.

As a result of the Fellowship, Wright will be better equipped to prepare students for global citizenship. Fellows also create valuable global lesson plans for their students that are freely shared with educators across the nation and the world through open-source platforms.

“The Global Learning Fellowship will not only enhance my classroom,” says Wright. “It will also broaden my horizons to reach my children’s families and all of those that I may come in contact with.”

This class was selected from over 400 applicants from across the country. These new Fellows teach all grade levels – and all subjects: from visual and performing arts to agri-science, vocational studies to history. They come from rural, suburban, and urban schools. They are National Board Certified, curriculum coaches, IB coordinators, foreign language speakers, and more. Some have participated in similar programs, and some have never

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traveled abroad. The diverse cohort will allow educators to learn from each other and bring global perspectives to a wide range of students.

“We believe that educators are the key to giving students the skills to thrive in an interconnected world,” said Harriet Sanford, President and CEO of the NEA Foundation. “We created the Global Learning Fellowship to provide professional development in teaching global competencies and to support educators as they integrate these skills into classroom instruction.”

Over the course of a year, the NEA Foundation staff, partners, and field experts will support Wright as she immerses herself in online coursework, webinars, and collegial study, including a [two-day professional development workshop](#) this fall and a nine-day international field study next summer, bringing the full cohort together with experts in global learning.

The workshop includes sessions led by leaders in global competency and country-specific knowledge.

Prior Fellows have contributed valuable knowledge to the field by posting replicable lesson plans on open-source platforms [here](#) and [here](#). Past Fellows have returned to advance global competency in their schools and districts—one Fellow recently [brought Peruvian artists to her school](#) to teach her students how to incorporate their own culture into their art. The Global Learning Fellows have completed online learning focused on integrating global content into their core instruction. They created more than 70 global-focused, K-12 inquiry-based lessons which can be replicated. [Download these free, global lesson plans](#), and find additional lessons on [BetterLesson.com](#). The Global Learning Fellows have completed online learning focused on integrating global content into their core instruction. They created more than 70 global-focused, K-12 inquiry-based lessons which can be replicated. [Download these free, global lesson plans](#), and find additional lessons on [BetterLesson.com](#). The Global Learning Fellows have completed online learning focused on integrating global content into their core instruction. They created more than 70 global-focused, K-12 inquiry-based lessons which can be replicated. [Download these free, global lesson plans](#), and find additional lessons on [BetterLesson.com](#). The Global Learning Fellows have completed online learning focused on integrating global content into their core instruction. They created more than 70 global-focused, K-12 inquiry-based lessons which can be replicated. [Download these free, global lesson plans](#), and find additional lessons on [BetterLesson.com](#). The Global Learning Fellows have completed online learning focused on integrating global content into their core instruction. They created more than 70 global-focused, K-12 inquiry-based lessons which can be replicated. [Download these free, global lesson plans](#), and find additional lessons on [BetterLesson.com](#). The Global Learning

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The NEA Foundation will accept applications for the 2019 Global Learning Fellowship this fall.

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**Editor's Note:** Please use our correct name, the NEA Foundation. The "NEA" is never spelled out in our name. It is not the National Education Association Foundation. Many thanks!

#### **About the NEA Foundation**

The NEA Foundation is a public charity founded by educators for educators to improve public education for all students. Since our beginning in 1969, the Foundation has served as a laboratory of learning, offering funding and other resources to public school educators, their schools, and districts to solve complex teaching and learning challenges. We elevate and share educator solutions to ensure greater reach and impact on student learning. We believe that when educators unleash their own power, ideas, and voices, communities, schools, and students all benefit. Visit [neafoundation.org](#) for more information. Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and subscribe to our [blog](#).

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