

**DC State Board of Education – Public Meeting
December 15, 2010**

I am here to represent IREX, the International Research & Exchanges Board. IREX is an international non-profit organization that works globally on education, civil society, and media projects. We are very proud to administer programs that provide opportunities for US secondary school teachers to participate in a short-term international professional development program aimed at globalizing US classrooms. These programs, which are funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State, are just a sample of the *wide range* of public diplomacy and international education initiatives funded by US taxpayer dollars. These programs have a proven impact on the lives of the participants, and I can think of hardly a better investment than in the lives and outlook of teachers – both in the US and abroad.

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) and the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) have sent over 200 US teachers nationwide to more than 30 countries. These teachers are *leaders* who return to their schools with renewed and broadened global perspective as well as tools for incorporating global learning into their classrooms. The program has recently been redesigned to include a more comprehensive professional development experience to increase the impact of the teachers' global experience on their US classrooms. Since 2008, only a handful of DCPS teachers have taken advantage of this opportunity, and we'd like to see that change. Global education is for *everyone*. With support and encouragement from Mayor-elect Gray, the DC State Board of Education, and everyone in the DC Public Schools system, we are hopeful about working more closely with DCPS to bring exciting opportunities like this one to the attention of DCPS teachers. **DCPS needs to be at the forefront of cutting-edge global education in the US.** This is not a fad – global education is here to stay. On behalf of IREX and the greater international education community, I urge DCPS to recognize and leverage these exciting opportunities, and help us get them in front of DCPS teachers.



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TEA Program www.irex.org/project/teaching-excellence-and-achievement-program-tea

ILEP Program <http://www.irex.org/project/international-leaders-education-program-ilep-0>

Teachers for Global Classrooms <http://www.irex.org/project/teachers-global-classrooms-program-tcg>