

**2009 IA/FASSE International Understanding Grants Support Social Studies
Learners in Utah and Guatemala, Australia and Sweden.**

Linda L’Ai, classroom teacher and pre-service teacher mentor at the Edith Bowen Laboratory School, Utah, and Dr. James Barta of Utah State University are recipients of a 2009 IA/FASSE International Understanding Grant for their project “It Takes a Village: Developing Cross-Cultural Understanding in the Context of a Social Studies Curriculum”. They will work with teachers and students in Utah and Guatemala, examining how new technologies can help infuse international understanding into classroom curricula.

Dr. Ruth Reynolds, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, is the recipient of a 2009 IA/FASSE International Understanding Grant for her project "Learning to be Global Citizens: A Comparative Study of Australian and Swedish Children's Knowledge and Attitudes to the World". She writes:

The study of place geography is not simply a low order intellectual skill - it is an integral step towards an individual understanding their place in the world as well as learning about others. In this age of rapid technological access to views of others children have confused notions of place because some places are readily available to them through media and Internet whilst others are not.

Dr. Reynolds will work with Dr. Monika Vinterek of Umea, Sweden to collect data on what children in Australia and Sweden know about the world and to design appropriate curriculum materials based on their findings.

The International Assembly (IA) was founded upon a commitment to build international understanding and to share the activities and scholarship of global social studies educators. FASSE was created by the National Council for the Social Studies to support research and classroom application projects that improve social studies education and promote engaged, effective citizens. In that spirit, the International Assembly (IA) and the Fund for the Advancement of Social Studies Education (FASSE) established the International Understanding Grants to support collaborative projects have the potential to enhance international relationships and global perspectives in social studies education.

Reviewers were very impressed with the quality of the proposals submitted and are delighted at the range of international projects NCSS members have in mind. Congratulations to Linda L’Ai, James Barta, Ruth Reynolds, and their colleagues for being the first recipients of the IA/FASSE International Understanding Grants. The NCSS community looks forward to hearing the results of their projects.

Submitted by

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