The Coolest (and Coldest!) Teachers in the World

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Later this month, two lucky teachers will have the opportunity of a lifetime. The selected teachers, Kim Williams of Sacramento and Cate Arnold of Boston, will serve as representatives of the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council, joining explorer Robert Swan, O.B.E. and 2041 on their next Antarctic Expedition, beginning Feb. 27. USGBC launched a coast-to-coast search in November 2011 to find the "Coolest Teacher in the World," a distinction earned through the teacher's efforts to make their schools healthy, supportive places to teach students about environmental and civic responsibility.

The two teachers were selected through an application process within USGBC's first two Green Schools Fellowship recipient districts, Boston Public Schools and Sacramento City Unified School District. Through checklists, photos and an essay, the teachers detailed concrete actions to improve their school building and learning environment. They will join over ninety other participants from every corner of the globe on the trip.

Both teachers demonstrated their ability and commitment to greening their classrooms and curriculum, making standouts amongst their peers in the application process. Arnold was chosen for her work with a student-led sustainability program that has directly impacted energy usage and wellness in the school. She and her students raise funds each year to pay for an annual summit for students and teachers in the Greater Boston area, leading to five summits that have reached over 2,000 students and educators from more than 200 schools. Williams was highlighted for her collaboration with local higher education institutions to bring the creativity and expertise of science, engineering and math graduate students and faculty into her classroom. In order to teach her students where their food comes from, and to provide healthy food choice opportunities, she also started a school garden along with a registered 4-H Junior Master Gardener Program.

We're very proud to see the great work Cate and Kim have already done and can't wait to hear updates from their trip. Be sure to check out our website to read updates from the expedition, see photos and ask the teachers questions about their trip!

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