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## **Collaborative Efforts Continue as Inter-American Partnership for Education Launches Intensive English Program for Mexican Public School Teachers**

The Inter-American Partnership for Education (IAPE) launched this week an innovative teaching program to advance its mission of positively impacting English language education in Mexican public schools by training and supporting a growing network of committed and dynamic educators.

Thirty nine English teachers from throughout Mexico are being served by the new program, called "IAPE Intensive English," which is taking place in Jalisco from March 23 to April 3, 2009 in collaboration with the offices of education of Aguascalientes, Jalisco and Sinaloa and the national system of Universidades Tecnológicas.

With the launch of the Intensive English Program, IAPE expands the influence of its flagship Teachers' Collaborative, a three-year professional development program pioneered in 2007 by the global education organization **Worldfund** in collaboration with Dartmouth College's Rassias Center for World Languages and Cultures, Béalos, and Nextel de México.

Named a 2007 Clinton Global Initiative commitment, IAPE's Teachers' Collaborative program -- and now the new IAPE Intensive English program -- strive to provide Mexican teachers with cutting edge skills to prepare their students for the global workforce. Forty mid-career teachers are accepted each year into the Teachers' Collaborative, and thirty nine teachers are being served in this year's inaugural Intensive English program. To date, the IAPE Teachers' Collaborative has directly impacted nearly 8,000 students.

"In this global economy, with so much interaction between the U.S. and Mexico, English is a critical skill that can make the difference between finding a job and not," commented Elena Espinosa de los Reyes, Director of Worldfund México, A.C.

The newest IAPE program consists of an eight-day intensive English course, followed by a two-day Rassias Method® Workshop. The Rassias Method is an

innovative system for teaching world languages developed by renowned Dartmouth Professor John A. Rassias.

An innovative feature of the new program is that participants are being taught by both U.S.-based English language teaching professionals as well as fellow teachers from Aguascalientes and Sinaloa who belong to the 2008 cohort of the Teachers' Collaborative and have also been trained in the Rassias Method.

"During last year's selection process for the three-year Teachers' Collaborative, we became aware that, while our original program serves a critical need, there's an equally critical need to teach English to a broader spectrum of Mexico's future English teachers," said Jim Citron, who directs the program for Worldfund.

The five Teachers' Collaborative educators were invited to serve as assistant teachers in the inaugural IAPE Intensive English program because they demonstrated high levels of skill and commitment during their own training at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH in July 2008. Now they will have the opportunity to implement and pass on many of the same techniques they learned in their own intensive sessions.

"This program wouldn't be a success if it weren't for all these partners working collaboratively toward one goal," said Helene Rassias-Miles, Executive Director of the Rassias Center.

By helping to lead the Intensive English sessions in Mexico, participants of the Teachers' Collaborative are completing the second phase of a three-year program. The first phase was the intensive two-week session at Dartmouth, where they engaged in professional development workshops, lectures, and seminars not only with Professor Rassias himself but with other leading educators.

The inaugural IAPE Intensive English program was made possible by significant in-kind contributions from the state offices of education from all three participating states. The Secretaría de Educación de Jalisco has donated classroom space, housing, and all meals for the participants and teaching staff at its Centro de Desarrollo de Personal (CEDEP). The Instituto de Educación de Aguascalientes and the Secretaría de Educación Pública y Cultura de Sinaloa are covering the transportation costs for their teachers and are providing release time for their five teachers who will be teaching in the program. Teachers from

four campuses of the Universidades Tecnológicas were also invited to participate.

Since Professor Rassias created his eponymous teaching method in 1960, it has been used to train more than 165,000 Peace Corp volunteers, as well as countless language students and teachers around the world.

Worldfund, a non-governmental organization with offices in New York, Washington, D.C., Mexico and Brazil was founded by Luanne Zurlo in 2002 to reduce poverty in Latin American through education.

Established by former President Bill Clinton in 2005, the Clinton Global Initiative is a non-partisan catalyst for action, bringing together a community of global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

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