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**SMITHSONIAN STUDENT TRAVEL TO SEND FIVE EDUCATORS ON A FREE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOUR OF CHINA**

Teachers and school administrators will travel to China on 10-day trip with educational professionals from across the nation.

Cambridge, MA / May 24, 2010 – Smithsonian Student Travel is sending five school administrators and teachers to China on a free EF Professional Development Tour this summer. Travelers will tour the sights of Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai from June 23 – July 2, 2010.

On the trip, participants will visit local schools, attend lectures about global education and have the opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues in China. Participants can also earn professional development credit by completing corresponding coursework.

Winners on their way to China are: Malia Chong, history teacher at Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii; Emmy Davis, Curriculum Director of Benjamin Logan Local School District in Bellefontaine, Ohio; Derrick Lawson, Principal of Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School in La Quinta, Calif.; Lori Marek, Principal of Devine Middle School in Devine, Texas; and Trish Perry, an administrator at New London-Spicer Middle School in New London, Minn.

History teacher Emmy Davis said, "I am really looking forward to visiting Shanghai. The city looks incredibly modern and futuristic." Davis has traveled to China on an educational trip once before, and will use her time in China to further develop her school's K-5 Mandarin program. School Administrator Trish Perry will also expand her school's knowledge of Mandarin; the school offers an online Mandarin program.

The winners responded to an offer mailed to them by student travel company Smithsonian Student Travel in January, 2010. Smithsonian Student Travel is the domestic educational tour operator of EF Education First. The company offers student trips to Washington, D.C., New York City, Florida, and across North America.

Smithsonian Student Travel combines the educational resources of the Smithsonian Institution with the travel expertise of EF Education First to create educationally-enhanced student trips for students and teachers. Smithsonian Student Travel tours are operated by EF Education First, the world's largest private education organization with 45 years experience. EF's North American headquarters are in Cambridge, MA, though the company spans the globe with hundreds of offices in more than 50 countries, a staff of over 29,000 employees, teachers and volunteers.

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