



October 19, 2011

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Ms. Bea Tijerina  
Vice President, RPCV  
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, DC  
P.O. Box 66101  
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Dear Ms. Tijerina and the RPCV Community,

In the one year since One World Education (OWEd) presented our work to the RPCV community, our work and impact have grown to reach more students, educators and schools. We believe our work is so closely aligned with the values of the Peace Corps because our model was strongly influenced by the World Wise theme of using personal stories about culture and identity to teach. OWEd's work as a DC-based non-profit prepares youth to be culturally and globally literate citizens and our programs enhance student engagement and learning through classroom curriculum built around student writing on culture and global issues. With such an aligned mission and focus, One World Education is an ideal partner for the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, DC Partnership for Peace.

### **The Need for One World Education**

Our work responds to our city's 49% graduation rate and the reality that 67% of high school students disengage from the learning process on a daily basis. As an educator I learned that when students are engaged they participate, learn, and are more likely to graduate. My students and I created OWEd to address this engagement gap through peer-to-peer learning built around student writing aligned with curriculum. OWEd was also created to provide educators with engaging resources that incorporate global learning and test preparation activities. Our classroom idea that started in a Southeast DC school in 2007 is now used in over 100 classrooms around the region.

### **Our Work**

One World Education offers new opportunities for middle and high school students in DC to share their knowledge and ideas about culture, local and global issues with their peers through literacy. OWEd programs equally enhance the work of local educators through the freely-available One World Curriculum, which is available through our website, [www.oneworldeducation.org](http://www.oneworldeducation.org). The One World Curriculum features project-based Learning Activities and test-preparing Unit Resources based on writing of our Student Ambassadors. These student Ambassadors are chosen from over 500 Culture & Global Issues Reflection Contest submissions we have generated in just two years.



This year OWEd is an official professional development partner and curriculum provider with DCPS. We have also partnered with George Washington University's Midge Smith Center for Evaluation Effectiveness. The latter partnership allows OWEd to expand and improve our programs that were featured on CBS News last April. For the 2010-2011 school year we are doubling the One World Curriculum from six to twelve units, so every month we are featuring a new One World Student Ambassador with aligned curriculum. We are also creating the city's first Summer Curriculum Camp for teachers, so more time during the school year can be devoted to working directly with students.

Thus far in the 2010 School Year, OWEd has published student-authored One World Reflections and corresponding curriculum about the needs of Somalian children (*Somalia's Forgotten Children*), the journey of one student's family from China to America (*The Pride of Being an American*), and the underground organ trade in poor villages in India (*Kidney Village: The Truth about Organ Trafficking*). These students are the best advocates of our work. Student Ambassador Ebenezer, whose Reflection, *Finding My Roots in Ghana*, is forthcoming, said "The feeling of people reading my essay gives me a sense of accomplishment because other students will learn about where I come from and how my culture defines me."

### **OWEd and RPCV**

The opportunity to expand our work and outreach across the city can greatly increase with the support of RPCV's base of local members. Despite our large and continually growing impact, our team is still compromised mainly of volunteers and non-staff contractors. Working with the RPCV community will offer us access to a range of professionals to assist OWEd with marketing, outreach, evaluation and fundraising supports so our programs can reach more schools and bring global education to more underserved students in our city.

One World Education's mission is closely aligned with the RPCV's goal to "help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans." As students explore their own culture and identity in our city's schools, One World Education is dedicated to providing an academic outlet for these students to share their ideas through writing to create engaging learning experiences for other DC students. I very much look forward to the opportunity to again present the work of One World Education to the RPCV community on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Eric Goldstein  
Teacher, Founder & Executive Director  
One World Education