

# News Release: PGCPs Educator to Participate in Teacher Exchange Program

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For Immediate Release

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**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – Mary Kate Bransford, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Environmental Literacy Outreach Educator, was recently selected to participate in the Institute of International Education's Japan-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The program, which is hosted by Fulbright, will bring together 10 U.S. teachers and 10 Japanese teachers to learn about ESD efforts and strengthen the ESD curricula in both countries.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for me and will greatly benefit the school system," said Bransford. "We have a new environmental literacy program for students in kindergarten, and grades 1,4,5, and 7, as well as high school. The exchange program will supply us with new and innovative ideas and connections to support the expansion of our programs and enrich our curricula so that all of our students can become environmentally literate."

PGCPS environmental literacy program teaches students about complex environmental, economic, and social factors that impact a human's ability to thrive. Students learn how humans fit within the natural systems, how they can impact those systems, and how to become responsible stewards of the environment.

Bransford will attend a joint conference in San Francisco from May 1 to May 4 and will travel to Japan from June 21 to July 3 to tour Japanese ESD sites and collaborate in a joint conference in Tokyo.

Bransford was selected from a pool of candidates that had to submit an online application that included a personal statement, two recommendations, and an Impact Plan.