



Pegge Erkeneff  
Director of Communications, Community, and Government Relations  
907.714.8888  
Fax 907.262.5867  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, Alaska, 99669  
e: [Pegge@KPBSD.org](mailto:Pegge@KPBSD.org)  
Facebook: [KPBSD](https://www.facebook.com/KPBSD)  
Twitter: [@KPBSD](https://twitter.com/KPBSD)  
[www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us)  
**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

---

## NEWS RELEASE

### ***Fulbright DAST Flash: Kenai Peninsula educational leader is going to Uzbekistan!***

**Soldotna, November 17, 2020—Amanda Adams of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in Soldotna, Alaska, has been selected for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short Term (Fulbright DAST) Program to Uzbekistan, a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Adams is one of 12 U.S. citizens who will travel to six countries around the world in 2021 on the Fulbright DAST Program.**

“Our greatest challenge is ourselves,” says Amanda Adams, KPBSD educator. “We create boundaries and limits for ourselves continually and detrimentally. Much of my time is spent convincing people of what they are capable of doing and becoming. I do not see barriers where others see them, and my thinking is typically not limited to the options we have before us. As someone who ultimately sees herself as a servant, sharing my skills with others is a requirement. The opportunity to help teachers in Uzbekistan see possibilities and hone skills is something I can and should do. When reading the project description, I had all the pieces that could support this work. A Peace Corps volunteer at heart forever, I did not hesitate to take a risk to see if I could be competitive for the honor. If you do not take a risk, you will never know. I continue to be passionate about the change that we are making: empowering learners must serve as the crux of our mission. What interests me the most at this current juncture is the empowering of educators to drive their own learning. And, that everyone in the organization from the superintendent to the learner is growing and deepening their work, with systemic support for learner-driven education.”

“This Fulbright fellowship is a well-deserved distinction for a truly inspiring instructional teacher leader,” said Superintendent John O’Brien. “It is refreshing when the very best in a profession get the recognition that they deserve and can benefit others through an experience such as this. Amanda Adams will share her talents and gifts with others through this fellowship and continue to grow as a professional educator. We are so proud of Amanda and supportive of her continued professional growth.”

Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as record of service and demonstrated leadership potential. [Learn more about the Fulbright Program](#), a the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S government, and created to increase mutual understanding and build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

[Read an interview](#), and connect with Amanda at her professional teaching website, [www.teachingjedi.com](http://www.teachingjedi.com)

**KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-TWO DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

**The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.**  
ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT  
GRAHAM RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

**FOR RELEASE NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

**###**

**1 OF 1**