



Florida Educators Are Fulbright Scholars to Japan in October 1998

In October 1998, six Florida Educators were chosen as Fulbright Scholars and were hosted by the Government of Japan to a visit to Japanese schools and homes. The representatives from Florida were selected in a competitive process from 2,700 applications nationwide. The Florida honorees were: **Nancy West Boyer**, an English Language Studies Teacher at Groveland Elementary School in Howey In the Hills; **Madonna Jervis Wise**, an Elementary School Principal from West Zephyrhills Elementary School in Zephyrhills, Florida; **Patricia A. Sokoi-Shille**, an English to Speakers of Other Languages at West Wood Middle School in Gainesville, Florida; **Sylvia Richardson**, a Commercial Arts Teacher from Belleview High School in Ocala, Florida; **Marion Molly Anderson**, an English to Speakers of Other Languages at Port Charlotte Middle School; and **Brenda Young**, a general studies director at the Leon and Leona Brauser Maimonides Academy from Hallandale, Florida.

The six educators traveled to San Francisco for a pre-trip orientation and then flew together to Tokyo. After a one week-discussion and presentation on Japanese education in Tokyo, each of the participants traveled to a different part of Japan which included: Takamatsu Prefecture (Nancy West Boyer); Nara Prefecture (Madonna Wise); Matsumoto Prefecture (Patricia A. Sokoi-Shille); Utsunomiya Prefecture(Sylvia Richardson); Takaoaka Prefecture (Marion Molly Anderson); Hanamake Prefecture (Brenda Young).

This table provides links to summaries of recent public diplomacy activities in different states. Newest entries are in **bold**. USIS offices are the USIA field offices overseas, the U.S. Information Service.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SHARES CULTURAL LESSONS

The St. Petersburg Times recently reported that some of her preconceived ideas about Japan changed after she spent three weeks in the country. In the 13 years she has served as an administrator, Madonna Wise has peeked into a lot of classrooms and seen the interaction between students and teachers when there's real learning going on. That intangible connection is something she can pick up on in an instant, **Wise** said, whether it's at her own school (West Zephyrhills Elementary, where she is principal) or in a Japanese village school that she had the opportunity to visit during a three-week stay in October. Wise's trip, to learn firsthand about education and Japanese culture, was paid for by a grant from the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. The program, funded by the Japanese government, was established three years ago to commemorate the 50th anniversary of another program - the U.S. Fulbright scholarship program. About 6,000 Japanese citizens have been brought to the United States for graduate education and research through the Fulbright program. The Institute of International Education, which administers the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in the United States, will send 5,000 teachers and administrators to Japan over the next five years. **Wise**, one of 200 educators chosen out of 2,700 applicants for the October trip, gives talks to students, teachers, and civic groups as a part of the program. For **Wise**, the visit to Japan was an eye-opening experience, one she was happy to share with her students and faculty at West Zephyrhills Elementary through daily e-mails. "You don't realize how many preconceived ideas you have," **Wise** said.

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