

Lauren Piner South Central High School Winterville, NC

Innovative activity: Created cross-cultural lesson plans, partners with two teachers in Poland to lead discussions about the effects of globalization among their students, and designed (along with three other teachers) an interactive world map in the school's hallway that includes all the places they have traveled in an effort to get students interested in places beyond their own communities.

Impact: A group of 20 students in Piner's Title 1 school will be traveling to Italy and Greece for Spring Break 2016; for most of them this will be their first flight and their first time out of the state of North Carolina.

Grade(s) taught: 9-12

"Since I teach in a Title I school in an impoverished part of Eastern North Carolina, it is very difficult for many of my students to grasp the vast richness of the world; even areas that are simply out of our county, as many have never ventured beyond those county lines. I bring in as many different student perspectives as possible, use my colleagues as resources, and my own travel experiences to pique their interests in my curriculum, as well as their own goals and dreams."

