

“Individually, we are one drop.  
Together, we are an ocean.” - Ryunosuke Satoro



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **United Planet Educates Teachers on Language Acquisition through Travel Abroad**

- ***[United Planet](#) to present at the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association's (MaFLA) Annual Fall Conference to Share Expertise in the field of International Education***

**Boston, MA, October 17, 2012**– United Planet will be presenting at the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference, taking place October 25-27, 2012 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA. United Planet's International Programs Manager, Caitlin Ferrarini, and John Cheeseman, a teacher at Josiah Quincy Upper International Baccalaureate School in Boston, will be speaking to foreign language professionals and teachers at the conference on how to “Foster a Love of Languages through Leading a Student Trip Abroad” on Friday, October 25 at 11:15 a.m.

Ferrarini and Cheeseman have personal experience in this field, together leading a group of Boston high school students to Mongolia in 2011 for a three-week program sponsored by the Department of State. Cheeseman explains, “An experience abroad can forever instill a love of languages and cultures in students, and language teachers can serve as great group leaders for students. For many teachers the process of organizing a group trip abroad can be overwhelming, especially if they've never led one before.” Ferrarini adds, “Leading a student trip abroad is so rewarding, for both the students and the teacher. We want to help make the entire process easy for educators to pursue.”

During their presentation, Ferrarini and Cheeseman will address where to begin in organizing international educational programs for students, including choosing an appropriate program provider for teachers and students, gaining support for programs abroad, and fundraising. Additionally, Ferrarini and Cheeseman will provide practical resources and interactive demonstrations which educators can use to get their students out of the classroom and immersed in language and culture abroad. The pair will delve into practical advice and

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best practices in the roles and responsibilities of a group leader and how group leaders can foster a transformative experience for students before, during, and after a program abroad. Themes of student development, language acquisition through cultural immersion and international friendship, and safety will run throughout the presentation.

Individuals interested in attending MaFLA's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference: *Our Global Lens* can register for the event online at <http://mafla.org/events-2/annual-fall-conference/current-year/>. United Planet will be in attendance as well, exhibiting at the conference on October 25 & 26.

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### **About United Planet**

[United Planet](#), an international non-profit based in Boston, MA, strives to create a world in which all people understand, respect, and support one another. United Planet's global network of leaders and volunteers fosters cross-cultural understanding and addresses shared challenges to unite the world in a community beyond borders. Over the past ten years, United Planet has worked with local communities all over the world to find meaningful work for volunteer travelers; and has placed thousands of volunteers in those communities to live and work – for periods ranging from a week to a year. United Planet is the U.S. and Canadian member of the [International Cultural Youth Exchange \(ICYE\) Federation](#), founded in 1949. For more information about United Planet and its [volunteer abroad](#) programs, please visit us [www.unitedplanet.org](http://www.unitedplanet.org).

**For further information, please contact**

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