

# Highlights of the 2016 Peace Teachers Program

## The Program

The U.S. Institute of Peace's (USIP) Peace Teachers Program selects outstanding American middle and high school educators each year to receive training, resources, and support to strengthen their teaching of peace. For more information on the Peace Teachers Program and USIP's public education resources for students and teachers, visit [www.usip.org/public-education](http://www.usip.org/public-education).

## The 2016 Cohort

- **Matthew Cone, Carrboro High School, Carrboro, NC** (World History, Global Issues, Global Cultures)
- **Latricia Davis, Lakehill Preparatory School, Dallas, TX** (World Geography, AP U.S. History, AP Human Geography)
- **Lori Raybold, Hamburg High School, Hamburg, NY** (English)
- **Rhonda Scullark, Perspectives Middle Academy, Chicago, IL** (Reading, A Disciplined Life, Peace Team Ambassador)

Over the course of the 2016-2017 school year, the 2016 Cohort created individual action plans, received virtual training and guidance, met monthly online, engaged their students in global peacebuilding learning and action, and created resources for use by other educators.

## Highlighted Activities

- **International Day of Peace:** The 2016 Peace Teachers took part in USIP's Peace Day Challenge, in honor of the International Day of Peace on September 21, with lessons on conflict and peace, peace posters, interviews with peacebuilding experts, and a school-wide Peace Week.
- **Individual initiatives throughout the year:**
  - Lori Raybold challenged her English students to apply what they learned about conflict analysis and conflict styles to characters in works of literature, and then to their own lives.
  - Drawing on USIP's resources, Latricia Davis designed a new course, Contemporary Issues, to help her students make connections to issues that matter.
  - Rhonda Scullark's students spoke with a young peacebuilder in Nigeria to share stories about local peacebuilding work and learn from her experiences.
  - Matt Cone attended USIP's Passing the Baton conference, where he met and arranged a videoconference call for his class with former Secretary of State John Kerry, to discuss critical international issues.
- **Spreading awareness of global peacebuilding education:** The teachers served as ambassadors for global peacebuilding, publishing articles on USIP's website and speaking to the media, where their work was featured on Sirius XM and in Education Week.
- **USIP Closing Program:** The teachers gathered at USIP on July 9-10, 2017, where they shared their experiences with members of the education and peacebuilding communities at roundtable conversations, an invite-only event, and meetings on Capitol Hill.

*"I wanted to be a Peace Teacher because I wanted to meet other people who were doing this sort of work. It's been a thrill to be able to learn from them."*

*– Matt Cone*

*"Seeing what my students did for the International Day of Peace, and how people in the neighborhood listened to them, was incredible. They really felt they could make a difference."*

*– Rhonda Scullark*

*"Since becoming a Peace Teacher, my view of teaching conflicts has shifted.*

*Now, instead of focusing solely on what caused wars, I ask my students to reflect on what conflict resolution methods could have potentially changed the outcomes."*

*– Latricia Davis*

*"By the end of the year, my students felt empowered to tackle issues of conflict and peace in their lives, schools, communities, and world."*

*– Lori Raybold*



*Students in Latricia Davis' class explore the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.*



*USIP's Megan Chabalowski with Buffalo, NY, area educators and students, following a presentation organized by Lori Raybold.*



*Matt Cone's class speaks with Secretary Kerry.*



*Rhonda Scullark's students participate in Peace Day celebrations.*