



TERVETULOA!

We are so pleased to welcome you to Finland as part of the second cohort of Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools --- a program specifically designed for U.S. K-12 education administrators.

The vision of the Fulbright Finland Foundation is to empower the minds that will find global solutions to tomorrow's challenges by fostering academic and professional expertise and excellence in leadership. You are now joining this network of change makers as you begin your intensive 10-day program that facilitates the sharing of best practices between U.S. and Finnish education administrators and educators, and supports the dialogue addressing innovations in school leadership.

Mirroring the Finnish Education system itself, the FLGS program is an experiential, phenomenon-based, and cross-curricular undertaking with an emphasis on modern competencies and the wellness of the child as a whole. The program sheds light on the cultural and societal elements and values that

contribute to our education system. We cherish our close relationship with nature, and "nature schools," phenomenon-based learning, and even school recess bring the natural environment closer to students and highlight the wellbeing that the beautiful natural settings can provide for everyone. We invite you to experience the nature school at the Nuuksio National Park in Espoo, relax in the sauna, and swim in the Baltic sea.

You will begin your program in the capital city, Helsinki, with briefings and strategic discussions to provide the background and framework of the Finnish education system, teacher training and school leadership. In addition to school visits in Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, and Jyväskylä, you will see the historic Seminarium Hall at the University of Jyväskylä where Finnish teacher education first started. It will serve as the setting for reflection and discussion on current educational leadership practices in Finland and the U.S. The Heureka Science Center, on the other hand, serves as an example of the new and diverse learning environments



and STEM education that play a critical role in the Finnish curriculum.

Throughout the program and the networking receptions, you will be able to reflect upon your observations with the expert speakers and with your fellow U.S. Fulbrighters and Fulbright alumni from Finland.

How to empower students through purpose, movement and global competency? How have U.S. Fulbright teachers experienced phenomenon-based education in Finland? Find answers to these questions and hear about other current education themes at the “2020 Fulbright Forum: Education, Innovation, Science and Art” seminar, where our current American Fulbright scholars, teachers, and students in Finland share their observations.

You will see in practice that a key strength of the Fulbright Finland Foundation is the strategic engagement of its alumni, and we strongly encourage you to

continue your Fulbright experience and connections after your program by becoming an active member of the Friends of Fulbright Finland (FoFF) alumni network in the United States.

True to the Foundation’s brand promise, “Together Shaping the Future,” the organization of this program has been a joint effort. We sincerely thank the large number of individuals and institutions whose expertise and collaboration have made this program possible. A special thank you to our partners at IREX and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. And last, but certainly not least, to the Fulbright Finland Foundation team!

Tervetuloa! Welcome! I invite you to immerse yourself in the Finnish experience and wish you a fruitful, productive and enjoyable program!

Terhi Mölsä

CEO, Fulbright Finland Foundation