

# THE EDUCATOR'S EXTRA

Empowering Teachers | Inspiring Students | Improving Education

## A word from our Executive Director

I recently had coffee with a colleague of mine and we began discussing how we spend our free time and the concept of being 'intentional.' Our intentionality with our personal and professional lives and with the time we have and how we choose to spend it. I always intend to stay in touch, volunteer, and to donate more. Yet, life is hard to predict and often unexpected. With that being said, I have decided to pursue living my daily life with more intention.

Education in itself is intentional. As teachers, administrators, and educators, we have to be intentional. If we are not, we're letting down an entire future generation. Girls and boys that are future engineers, scientists, real world problem-solvers, and of course, educators.

Time is finite for us human beings. We have only a specific amount where we can leave the world better than we found it. I need to be intentional with my time and I challenge you to be intentional with yours. Volunteer, donate, engage. It does make a difference.

- *Michael Lynch, Ed.M.*



## Welcome to our Newsletter (and being back to school)!

Welcome to Educators of America's first newsletter! You'll find it is full of EOA news and updates, interviews, helpful tips and tricks, and event information. We would like to thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. We appreciate individuals like you who care about improving education, the betterment of teachers, and increasing student achievement.

This newsletter will be sent on a bi-monthly basis. We want this newsletter to be valuable to you so **please** send us your feedback and suggestions whenever possible!

Moreover, your privacy is important to us. We want you to know that we will never share, rent, sell, trade, lease, or give your contact information to anyone.





## Bringing the World to the Classroom

The **Building Cultural Bridges (BCB) Program** is connecting US and Namibian students right in their own classrooms. Moving beyond the traditional pen pal letters criss-crossing the earth, Educators of America has implemented CiscoDX80 devices to facilitate live face-to-face conversations between students.

Teachers and students alike are forming relationships and taking on collaborative projects such as animal conservation and water security and using the video technology to share ideas, discuss project components, and present their findings.

The BCB program has recently been awarded New York State Department of Education's Learning Technology Grant and will be expanding its growth over the next three years.

To find out more about the BCB program or the Learning Technology Grant, [click here.](#)

Feel free to unsubscribe from this newsletter at any moment, yet if you are a teacher, an educator, a superintendent, or a parent of a student or related to a student, and want to ensure they achieve as much as they can during their school careers, we believe you'll enjoy these newsletters.

Thank you and happy back to school!

- Educators of America

## *Building Hope in Namibia*

This past June, a delegation of eight individuals joined members of EOA and traveled to the Sub-Saharan African nation of Namibia on a capacity building mission. The focus of the mission was to build the capacities of teachers and administration in inclusive education practices such as positive reinforcement, approaches to behavior management, and constructing math and literacy centers. Additionally, part of the team worked with 70 6th grade students from two schools on improving their team building, entrepreneurship, self-esteem and hygienic skills through hands-on activities and games.

The two week-long trip provided immense amounts of learning - both to the EOA team and the Namibian teachers and students. From language learning to learning how to play foursquare, every moment was discovering more about one another and sharing experiences. There's a conundrum that some believe exists with cross-cultural exchange and human development. It is that they are mutually exclusive, yet, we believe that without relationships, you cannot have human development. It's an essential component.

For more information on our past and future Building Hope Projects, [visit the Building Hope webpage.](#)

