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J Rêve International visits Rochester, NY with educational programming

Awards Global Essay contest winner at Robert Brown High School

Rochester, NY. On February 24th and 25th, former Penfield, NY resident Jacqueline Cofield, founder of [J Rêve International](#), who has lived in 7 countries and visited 50 and now resides between New York and Senegal, visited Lakeshore Elementary and Robert Brown High Schools respectively. Intent on giving back to the Rochester community where she grew up, Cofield aims to inspire students to develop global and creative perspectives through educational achievement, travel, and the arts.

At Lakeshore Elementary (Feb 24), ESL teacher Alexandrina Shortino invited Cofield to speak to the entire third grade, exploring the theme “Knowledge is Power.” Cofield shared insights about her global travels, multilingualism, and also made reference to the books the students are reading in their English core curriculum. School Principal James Palermo remarked that Cofield’s presentation, “really shows the students how what they are learning now can be a part of their lives into adulthood.” The students, though not understanding, particularly enjoyed when Cofield spoke in fluent French, and then Italian. One student mentioned, “I used to speak French, but I want to learn it again.”

At Robert Brown High School (Feb 25), English teacher Barbara Bukowski welcomed Jacqueline Cofield and her guests Dr. Jason B. Willis and Robin Dettman to award student Jennifer Torres a first place certificate and \$100 gift Amex card for the [J Rêve International](#) Global Kid’s Essay Contest. This year’s theme is “How to make school better,” and first place awards will also be given to students in Haiti, Senegal, Canada and Louisiana. An ebook will ultimately be created, wherein artists will illustrate each first place essay. Jacqueline Cofield recalls, “I won first place in the Wesley on East essay contest when I was her age and it really made me feel confident as a student. It feels so good to go full circle with that and create the same experience for Jenny.” Jennifer’s teacher Barbara Bukowski stated that, “this award is particularly significant because Jenny is an ESL (English as a Second Language) student. She is very proud and this acknowledgement reinforces her esteem in the area of writing.”

From April 3-11, 2015, [J Rêve International](#), in collaboration with [Give1Project](#) and [Community Enterprise Center](#), and The Senegalese American bilingual school of Dakar, ISM University, and Blaise Diagne High School, will host educators from across the United States in a 10-day program of professional development. Instructors will engage in various leadership, exchange and instructional activities, including: Instructing a course in their subject area, teacher-to-teacher incubator sessions, panels and presentations, and cultural and artistic excursions. Two teachers from the Rochester school district will attend.

J Rêve International specializes in producing creative and social entrepreneurship projects that impact people on a global scale. J Rêve International believes that visual and performing arts, creative education and global exchanges transform lives and communities.

Community MicroEnterprise Center is determined to work toward an equitable community. CMC strives to increase engagement and support to build local and global social capital through educational programming.

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Photos available upon request

Jacqueline Cofield, founder of [J Rêve International](#), presented the award to Jennifer Torres of Barbara Bukowski's English class at Robert Brown High School. Torres read her essay to her classmates in this photo, who were also all receiving achievement certificates for maintaining honors status for the term. Also in the photo are Dr. Jason B. Willis (bottom left) who congratulated Jennifer and spoke words of encouragement to the class. And, Robin Dettman (middle photo, far right), education management consultant and [J Rêve International](#), advisor, who was one of the essay contest judges.



Jacqueline Cofield, founder of [J Rêve International](#), visited Lakeshore Elementary school in Greece, and spoke to students about the Power of Knowledge, and how she gains knowledge through reading, travel and engaging the arts globally. When she spoke French, and then Italian, both teachers and students were amazed and ready with many questions about her travels.

