

Teachers, join us on this life-changing journey to Uganda!

Marymount University and REACH for Uganda are excited to invite **teachers and educational professionals** to join us on a trip to Uganda March 25 - April 4, 2026. Led by Marymount Prof. Dr. Nicci Dowd. This trip is a unique opportunity to learn about Ugandan culture and education, while also making a difference in the lives of Ugandan teachers and students.

During this trip, you will:

- Experience the beauty and diversity of Uganda
- Visit Ugandan schools and observe classrooms, including both of REACH for Uganda's elementary schools
- Work with Ugandan teachers to share tips and tricks of the trade, and develop and implement lesson plans
- Participate in workshops on Ugandan education and culture
- Help to model lessons and teaching styles

Why go on this trip?

- To make a difference in the lives of Ugandan teachers and students. Ugandan teachers are some of the most dedicated and hardworking professionals in the world. However, they often face many challenges, such as large class sizes, limited resources, and a lack of professional development opportunities. By participating in this trip, **you can help Ugandan teachers to improve their skills and knowledge**, and you can also provide them with much-needed support and encouragement.
- To learn about Ugandan culture and education. Uganda is a beautiful and diverse country with a rich culture and history. On this trip, you will have the opportunity to **learn about Ugandan culture and education** firsthand. You will also have the chance to meet and interact with Ugandan people from all walks of life.
- To **experience the beauty and diversity** of Uganda. Uganda is a country with stunning scenery, diverse wildlife, and friendly people.

For more information:
info@reachforuganda.org
ndowd@marymount.edu

Learn more: <https://reachforuganda.org/>





The trip is open to all teachers, regardless of experience or subject area

- The trip will be limited to 14 participants.
- The application deadline is January 31, 2026.

Join a virtual information session to learn more

- October 9, 7 - 8 pm
- November 28, 7 - 8 pm

Interest Survey: <https://rb.gy/j4mda>

Meet your trip leader, Marymount University's Dr. Nicci Dowd

Nicci T Dowd, Ph.D., Co - led the teacher trip to Uganda last year. She is an Assistant Professor of Special Education and a mentor to doctoral students. She earned her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Regent University, where she received the Outstanding Research Award. Her scholarship bridges research and practice, focusing on improving access to community-based resources and exploring how artificial intelligence can enhance inclusive practices in special education.

Dr. Dowd serves as Vice President of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES). In this role, she fosters global partnerships to support innovative educational initiatives. She has partnered with educators in Ghana, Uganda, Panama, and Colombia to deliver professional development for teachers of students with disabilities.

In January 2026, she will begin her term as the first African American President of DISES. Her international research centers on culturally responsive, sustaining practices that promote inclusive learning environments. She is leading an initiative to establish a structured special education support program at Matuwa Junior School in rural Uganda.

Dr. Dowd serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Special Education Preparation, and is a board member of the Autism Society of Northern Virginia, along with other organizations dedicated to disability advocacy. She was recently appointed as an accreditation commissioner for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and serves as the international liaison for the Focus on Exceptional Children journal.

How to apply:

- To apply for this trip, please visit the REACH for Uganda website. The application deadline is January 31st, 2026. <https://reachforuganda.org/getinvolved/trips/>

Cost:

- The cost of this ten day trip is \$1,500. This includes all your accommodations, meals, and private ground transportation while in Uganda. We want to provide teachers and education professionals an affordable way to visit a beautiful country!
- Out of pocket expenses will include flights, vaccinations, and any souvenirs purchased.