



September 15, 2011

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### **MVHS teacher selected by U.S. Department of State to travel to Africa**

MOUNT VERNON – Catherine Ousselin, a teacher of the French language at Mount Vernon High School, will spend a week in the African nation of Chad to participate in a program on empowering women and girls through education. The invitation was extended by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Information Programs, and is funded by a U.S. Speaker and Specialist Grant.

Ousselin will depart on September 30 and travel to Chad. Utilizing her fluency in French, she will engage in a series of dialogues with young female audiences that will help build their self-esteem and encourage them toward future leadership roles in their society through education.

Ousselin compared the State Department assignment to her daily teaching work at Mount Vernon High School, where many of her own students face challenges that interrupt education. While on assignment, she will interact through technology with her Mount Vernon students.

Ousselin received her M.A. in French in 2001 from the University of Kansas. She is the Vice-President of the Washington/Alaska/British Columbia/Alberta Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) and the Co-Chair for the AATF’s Commission on Technology.