

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: JULIETA ESTEBAN  
JULIETA@THETEACHERSSALARYPROJECT.ORG**

**THE TEACHER SALARY PROJECT PRESENTS THE SCREENING  
OF *AMERICAN TEACHER***

**A DEFINITIVE LOOK AT THE STATE OF TEACHING IN AMERICA  
THAT OFFERS A SOLUTION TO THE EDUCATION CRISIS.**

**NARRATED BY MATT DAMON**

**COMMUNITY SCREENING, JANUARY 31, 2012**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH  
MICROSOFT PARTNERS IN LEARNING AND  
HIGHLAND TECH CHARTER SCHOOL, REINVENTING SCHOOLS COALITION, and ALASKA CATALYST**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**LOUSSAC LIBRARY**

**6:30PM**

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**ADMISSION IS FREE**

**AMERICAN TEACHER** is the feature-length documentary produced and directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Vanessa Roth; produced by Ninive Calegari, co-founder of the literacy nonprofit 826 National, and bestselling author Dave Eggers; and narrated by Academy Award-winner Matt Damon.

**AMERICAN TEACHER** chronicles the stories of four teachers – Erik Benner, Johathan Dearman, Jamie Fidler, and Rhena Jasey – who live and work in disparate urban and rural areas of the country. By following these teachers as they reach different milestones in their careers, the film tells the deeper story of the teaching profession in America today. The film shows us the experience of these four young teachers as they recognize the importance of what they do, and how much they love what they do, but have to ask themselves: Can I afford to continue to teach?

In the next ten years, more than half of this country's current 3.2 million teachers will be eligible to retire. We will then have a choice: continue with the current broken system of trying to attract talented college graduates to the teaching profession by offering – long hours, little support, no prestige, low pay – a system that results in high turnover and low morale and translates into 85 percent of graduates refusing to even consider the profession. Or we change: increase compensation and improve conditions to attract the best college graduates who might otherwise go into law, finance, or other lucrative fields. With the best and the brightest in the profession, our schools *will* get better.

Based on the New York Times bestselling book, *Teachers Have It Easy: The Big Sacrifices and Small Salaries of America's Teachers* (The New Press, 2005), **AMERICAN TEACHER** is an endeavor of the

Teacher Salary Project, a nonprofit organization offering an interactive online resource and a national outreach campaign to change how teachers are valued in our society.

“\*\*\*\*\*. Essential.” – New York Daily News

**AMERICAN TEACHER**

81 MINS, US, 2011, ENGLISH, DIGITAL

Produced and Directed by **Vanessa Roth**

Produced by **Ninive Calegari and Dave Eggers**

Edited and co-directed by **Brian McGinn**

Music by **Thao Nguyen**

Narrated by **Matt Damon**