

**“Teach for Better Hearing”**  
***Continuing education scholarship program for teachers***

Interactive teaching method for children with hearing loss  
Eduplex, Pretoria (South Africa)

The *Hear the World* Foundation and Eduplex have recently introduced “Teach for Better Hearing,” a continuing education program focused on processes for integrating children who have a hearing loss into the classroom and improving their overall education experience.

The *Hear the World* Foundation, launched in January 2007, was created to financially support initiatives related to the topic of hearing, as well as provide education and hearing technology to those in need. To this end, the foundation created “Teach for Better Hearing.” Through the program, the Foundation will sponsor a select number of teachers from the United States to travel to Eduplex, a unique school project in South Africa that was opened in Pretoria, South Africa by Nelson Mandela in 2002. Today, more than 380 students, those both affected and unaffected by hearing loss, are seamlessly taught in an integrated environment in the private elementary school. Via the “Teach for Better Hearing” program, the sponsored teachers will participate in a 2-week intensive training program to observe and learn how to integrate students who are hard of hearing into a normal classroom setting with other students who are unaffected by this disorder.

The aim of “Teach for Better Hearing” and Eduplex is a worldwide integration of children who have a hearing loss into regular schools, as well as the international implementation of the Natural Aural Approach, as it is being applied at Eduplex. This approach implies that children who have a hearing loss learn best when taught alongside children with normal hearing, thereby receiving information through their ears, rather than by the assistance of sign language and other teaching and communication tools. An important part of the Natural Aural Approach is the use of hearing technology, as it is of great importance in a teaching method focused on spoken language.

As part of an ongoing follow-up, participating teachers will receive a visit from representatives from Eduplex to see how the program has been brought into their own classroom and to offer additional support to strengthen the teachers’ acquired knowledge from the program.

The scholarship includes coverage of costs for travel and training and – perhaps more important – development funds for the technological implementation of the method at the teachers’ home school, depending on respective need.

The “Teach for Better Hearing” program primarily addresses teachers from elementary schools. The following requirements need to be met in order to qualify for a scholarship starting spring 2008

- Familiarity with or strong interest in the Natural Aural Approach
- Integrative teaching concept
- Experience working with children with hearing loss

Please submit your scholarship application for “Teach for Better Hearing“, including the following information, to the *Hear the World* Foundation no later than **31st of March 2008**

- Profile of your school
- Background of the teacher who would like to participate in the program
- Motivation behind the desired participation
- Overview of experience working with children with hearing loss
- Availability for training in Pretoria (possible dates in which the teacher could participate)

Contact person for the submission of applications and for further questions:

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#### ***About Hear the World***

*Hear the World* is a global initiative by the Swiss hearing system manufacturer Phonak. The initiative's aim is to raise worldwide awareness for the importance of hearing and to inform of the implications of hearing loss. The initiative educates on the social and emotional consequences of hearing loss and informs about available solutions. Furthermore, it is actively involved in the prevention of hearing loss and the support for a problem that today affects 10 percent of the world's population. World-famous musicians such as the tenor Plácido Domingo and the Vienna Philharmonic support the initiative *Hear the World* as ambassadors. In addition to a long-term communication program that targets opinion leaders and the general public, the initiative comprises the *Hear the World* Foundation. Through the foundation, Phonak supports charitable organizations and projects focused on helping people with hearing loss. Please visit [www.hear-the-world.com](http://www.hear-the-world.com) for more information.