Anthropologists Go Back to School

How can you tell the height of a person by measuring a bone? How can you figure out what would make a community better for its people? What kinds of work do professional anthropologists do? What jobs could you qualify for if you studied anthropology in college?

Students in grades 5-8 at two Washington, D.C., schools will have a chance to ask these and many other questions when anthropologists go “Back to School” to inspire young people and their teachers to pursue anthropological forms of inquiry.

Anthropologists will be visiting with students at two schools on Wed., Dec. 3, 8:45 – 9:30 a.m.

Simon Elementary School
401 Mississippi Ave SE
Washington, DC 20032

Hugh M. Browne Education Campus
850 26th St. NE
Washington, DC 20002

During the week of Dec. 3-7, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) will hold its 113th Annual Meeting offering more than 5,000 sessions and special events with the theme, Producing Anthropology. Anthropologists will offer a provocation to examine the truths we encounter, produce and how these affect the communities in which we live.

“Conversations with the students, their teachers and side debriefs with participating colleagues reinforced the importance of a responsible anthropology that gives back and assumes an active role in understandings of culture writ large and in the margins,” said Kamela Heyward-Rotimi, an anthropologist who participated in last year’s program.

The 113th AAA Annual Meeting will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park and Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., where more than 6,000 anthropologists will tackles some of those world’s most pressing issues, including: Ebola, public health, food security, the Middle East, social change and climate change. There will also be a week-long media festival.

Many sessions are open to the public, registration is required.

To participate, press must register by Dec. 1, 2014. Press will receive complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting sessions, press conferences, admittance to invited sessions, special events and access to press-only workspace. The AAA has a new Press Credential Policy to better serve press and their editorial coverage. Onsite press registration will not be granted.

Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association, with more than 10,000 members, is the world’s largest professional organization of anthropologists. The Association is dedicated to advancing human understanding and tackling the world’s most pressing problems.