Potter Valley Students, Staff Turn IFT Grant into Both Art & History

Collaborative Project Portrays the Culture of the Potter Pomo Indian Tribe

There are many things you must learn. Reading, working hard, these are the important things.

Edna Campbell Guerrero, Northern Pomo Elder, 1907-1995

Sam Phillips, President of the Potter Valley Classified Association, took the lead on a joint grant proposal with their local teachers association and was awarded a $5,690 grant from the Institute for Teaching. The goal was to provide opportunities for students to build on their appreciation of other cultures and become more involved in both school activities and the larger community. Phillips collaborated with art teacher, Carrie Mayfield, on a means to recognize the Pomo Indian Tribe, descendants of the first-known inhabitants of the Potter Valley, which the Pomo called Ba-lo Kai.

They came up with a stunning mural concept and students completed work on Mayfield’s design. The idea was to accurately reflect the tribe’s culture and also educate Potter Valley students. Mayfield currently is at work helping to put together a presentation for elementary classes so pupils can gain an early understanding of the mural’s significance and that of the original inhabitants of the land they occupy. According to Mayfield, the Multi-Cultural Club project was “just the first step in a long process this community must make to begin to right the wrongs of the past.”
The photo above is the view from the Institute for Teaching table, set up at all regional and statewide CTA conferences. In the top photo, Anita Benitas, IFT Staff Consultant in Natomas, leads a discussion among interested CTA Association leaders during the Region 3 Leadership Conference in Costa Mesa in January.

One week earlier, IFT staff also presented a workshop at the CTA Issues Conference in Las Vegas. The workshop, entitled “Teacher Driven Change: New Opportunities Lead to New Possibilities,” is intended to familiarize CTA members with the work of the Institute for Teaching. It asks participants to consider two important questions: How can association leaders tap into the passion that our members feel for their work in the classroom? How can our chapters connect with members by supporting programs to improve student achievement?

IFT Hits the Road to Spread the Word on Strength-Based Teacher Driven Change

IFT GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW ONLINE

The 2012-2013 Grant Program is open and IFT eagerly awaits applications from CTA members and chapters for projects and programs that demonstrate the efficacy of the strength-based, teacher driven approach to school change.

Individual grants up to $5,000 and Chapter grants up to $20,000 are available for the next school year. Applications and information are available on-line at the IFT website www.teacherdrivenchange.org. The deadline to submit a grant application is April 30, 2012.

Applications will be reviewed in May by the IFT Grant Selection Committee, composed of teachers from around the state. Awards will be announced in June. In the fall (and again in the spring), members of the Grant Selection Committee will join IFT staff to visit each project location and to meet with team members to discover their learnings.

Project grants are awarded directly to CTA members, although the funds are administered by their local Associations in order to avoid any tax liability to grant recipients.

Grant proposals are judged based on a strength-based matrix that includes seven factors. The matrix and other guiding documents can also be found on the IFT website.

IFT Board of Directors Meeting- February 17, 2012- Burlingame
IFT Regional Teacher Think Tanks- Initial Meetings – February, 2012- Statewide
IFT Workshop & Table- Region 4 Leadership Conference- April 22, 2012- San Diego