IFT Grant Program Receives a Record Number of Applications

38 Apply for $5,000 Educator Grants, 31 Solicit $20,000 Chapter Grants

Sixty-nine CTA members and chapters applied for IFT Grants for the 2013-2014 school year. This represents an increase in applications of 30% over last year. In total, the Institute for Teaching received requests for over $740,000 in funding for teacher driven, strengths-based projects.

Applications were received from 49 different local associations, also a record. To avoid tax liability, local affiliated chapters serve as fiscal agents on behalf of the grant recipients. Grants recipients will be announced in late June and grant checks will be mailed to local Associations in late July or early August.

In addition, applications were received from 19 different counties statewide, led by 11 grant applications from CTA members working in Riverside County. Eight of the grant applications were for renewals.

Technology-related grant applications were the most common, followed by science and math, parent involvement, common core implementation, and green-projects.

(Merced High School students and parents gather on the school quad in preparation for a community history display. MHS was the site of a 2012-13 Educator Grant, “Voices- An Oral History Project.” According to Social Studies teacher Joel Sebastian, this project was designed to enable students to embrace their family heritage and expand their involvement in and appreciation of their community. (Below left) Inglewood Teachers Association members Kelly Iwamoto and Christina Close pose with a poster that highlights the motto of their 2012-13 Educator Grant, “Talk About It.” Designed to enhance family connections at Bennett Kew Elementary School, the “Parent University” grant proved to be a real catalyst for community involvement. According to Peter Somberg, ITA President, the IFT grant enhanced the Association’s organizing goals. A year-end grant celebration in May (below right) brought together teachers and parent, as well as CTA staff and supporters.)
As it completes its fourth year, the IFT-supported Algebra Success Academy is continuing to engage CTA members in a unique, experiential approach to teaching algebraic concepts to elementary students.

The partnership between IFT, UC Davis, Twin Rivers United Educators and Twin Rivers USD has grown from three teachers in one school to an expected 56 teachers in 12 different school districts in California for the 2013-14 school year.

Most of the growth is planned for Central California, especially in the counties surrounding the ASA's home in Sacramento County. Riverdale Joint USD in Fresno County has plans to include the ASA program in 16 classrooms beginning this fall. In Paradise USD, 6 teachers are scheduled to be part of the program.

Although the program’s roots are in CTA’s Region 2, not all of the expansion is there. Educators from Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and San Bernardino Counties are attending ASA trainings in advance of classroom adoption to learn more about its pedagogical approach.

In addition to ASA lead teacher Wendy Gallimore, four other CTA members will be serving as Lead Mentor Teachers in 2013-14. They include: Michelle Raley (Eureka); Donna Dreith (Riverdale); Kat Kennedy (Paradise) and Tiffany Hector (Twin Rivers).