Thirty-Four IFT Grants Will Assist Local Strength-Based Efforts

Nearly $360,000 Awarded to CTA Members’ Projects for 2013-14

Thanks to the generous support of CTA members, IFT is pleased to award nearly three dozen strength-based teacher driven grants to educators to enhance educational outcomes in their classrooms and their schools.

The IFT Grant program, now in its fourth year, has awarded a total of nearly $900,000 to support the idea that teachers and certificated support staff know best how to transform public education.

The grants for 2013-14 were approved by the IFT Board of Directors and grant applicants were notified in June. Grant checks will be mailed to their local Associations in early August. To avoid individual tax liability, grant funds are administered by chapters, who act as a fiscal agent on behalf of the grant recipient.

Three local affiliated chapters (Marysville UTA, Palm Springs TA and Travis UTA) received two grants each. In all, CTA members in 31 local associations (representing 17 California counties) are scheduled to receive grants ranging from $1,231 to $20,000.

The grant projects vary as widely as the interests of CTA members themselves. Grants were awarded to promote parental involvement, to develop or enhance school gardens, to encourage physical fitness and to increase involvement in the local community.

Other grants were focused more on traditional academic subjects, such as reading, history, writing art and mathematics. In the area of science, projects involving robotics, aquaponics, solar energy and building a space exploration vehicle were funded.

These local, teacher driven projects reflect IFT’s belief that classroom practitioners know best what their students need. For a complete description of the 2013-14 grants (as well as a summary of all IFT grants awarded), please check out the Grants tab on the IFT website www.teacherdrivenchange.org.
At the April 2013 IFT Board meeting (right), members listen as Carolyn Doggett discusses amendments to IFT by-laws that will enable more full-time classroom teachers to become part of the governance of the CTA Institute for Teaching. The Board approved a change that will ultimately allow up to 14 IFT Board members, with a majority being CTA members. The evolution of the IFT Board mirrors the growth of IFT programs under Carolyn’s watch.

During her 18 years as the CTA Executive Director, Carolyn Doggett has seen several different incarnations of the CTA Institute for Teaching. From an “on-paper only” foundation, she and CTA’s elected leaders helped guide the on-going evolution of IFT.

Beginning in the early 2000’s, she encouraged IFT’s leaders to work closely with independent foundations such as Packard, Hewlett and Gates. This work yielded many positive results, including IFT’s School Culture of Success, the Early Childhood Education Alliance and the Positive Deviance Project.

There was more to come. In 2008, CTA leaders worked with Carolyn to promote a steady income stream for the CTA Foundation for Teaching and Learning. Through the voluntary $20 reverse dues check off approved by State Council, IFT was able to develop a number of new programs, including the IFT Grants and the Regional Teacher Think Tanks.

Many of the members and staff of the IFT Board of Directors gathered at the June Retreat to honor the outgoing CTA Executive Director. Pictured above (from left) are Eric Heins, Dick Gale, Eric Enriquez, Toby Boyd, Carolyn Doggett, Jim Groth, Beverly Tucker, Dean Vogel, Anita Benitas, Merri Boston, Yale Wishnick, Kelly Horner and Wei Pan. Not pictured are several other Board members and staff, including: Mikki Cichocki-Semo, Liane Cismowski, Michelle Ramos, Justo Robles, Angela Boyle and Stacy Begin.

IFT Workshops at CTA Presidents Conference- July 24-25, 2013- San Jose
Algebra Success Academy Summer Training Concludes- July 29, 2013- Fresno
IFT Board of Directors Meeting- September 12, 2013- Burlingame