



IFT 2014-15 Grants

*Grant summaries have been provided
by individual grant recipients.*

Growing the Dream – Anaheim Elementary EA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

The purpose of this chapter grant is to grow the dream at **Gauer Elementary School**. This school wide transformation project provided Gauer scholars with a weekly rotation of arts classes, while simultaneously providing teachers release time to work together to truly embrace teacher driven strength-based change. The Gauer Dream School grant helped transform both the climate and culture. This year, we will integrate grit into the Seven Factors in the school culture of success, as well as begin the process of teacher inquiry, to better inform our classroom practices.

DISCOVERY Club – Association of Colfax Educators

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

This grant supports expansion of **Colfax Elementary's** After-School Program to include DISCOVERY Clubs, the new enrichment component long sought by our small rural community. DISCOVERY provides a diverse selection of interesting opportunities for students to explore, create, express, collaborate, and learn with others across grade levels. DISCOVERY partners teachers with parents and community members, empowering them to share their expertise, passions, and stories with our children. Students will choose from a dynamic variety of offerings in arts and crafts, music, cooperative and critical-thinking games, technology and design, and theater.

Creating Mindful Souls through Recycled Materials – Butte County TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

The Creating Mindful Sounds Project will provide an opportunity for student teams to collaborate and construct percussion instruments with recycled materials. With the guidance of a lead teacher and local artists, **Hearthstone School** students will engage in hands-on activities and workshops that will integrate science, art, culture and music into the study of sound and its impact on our ability to concentrate, focus and relax. Through the process of construction, creative collaboration, reflection and implementation, students' self-concept will broaden. Participants will build relationships with each other as team members and promote positive community involvement in the context of the school culture.

Classroom Technology Assistants and Programmers (CTAP) – Butte County TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

Middle School girls in grades 6-8 at **Four Winds School** will learn and apply different technology skills. Thematic projects and activities will be planned using the Problem Based Learning model for each quarter. Quarter #1 will teach how to write and publish eBooks for younger students to use as STEM textbooks and interactive readers on the school iPads. Quarter #2 will focus on coding and web design, where the students will each create a website or game. Quarter #3 students will create and maintain a blog. Quarter #4 will include a robotics class where students will build and program robots for a competition.

Mountain View Garden Project – Butte County TA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

The mission of our Sustainable Living and Learning Mountain View Garden Project is to implement a garden design based on permaculture principles at **Hearthstone School**. Our extended vision is to sustain a garden laboratory that becomes more productive with age. Providing a hands-on nutritional fresh food source for high needs students and their families will engage students in our Special Education and high risk populations to obtain academic and life skills, ecological awareness and an appreciation for the interconnected nature of all things.

pARTnership for the FUTURE – Chico Unified TA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

Through this proposal, two Art Teachers and a Teacher-Librarian from **Pleasant Valley High School** will create curriculum and activities that unite students, parents, and community in art experiences that help students use their strengths as a bridge to the future. Our program builds on a strong foundation, including a vibrant art program and two non-IFT grants which provided our Art Teachers and Teacher-Librarian with professional development in creating relevant curriculum and helping students communicate ideas using digital media. This focused study has reshaped our concept of how students learn. We are eager to take the next step by applying our learning to a strength-based curriculum that intertwines the five core components of our art program: being artists (process of creation), collaborating, art-making (final art product), publishing, and reflecting.

Camarena Life Science Center – Chula Vista Educators

Educator Grant- \$5,000

The Life Sciences Center (LCS) at **Camarena Elementary** is a commitment to real-life learning by having different animal habitats in the classroom. After its first year, the LSC already has an aquatic turtle habitat, a marine life habitat, and a leopard gecko habitat, as well as birds, tadpoles, and a rabbit. The project involves having students observe and learn what different living things need to survive, how to manage those needs in an indoor, controlled habitat, and how their needs interact with other species, plant life, the water cycle, and our larger environment. In addition to obvious opportunities for science lessons, the LSC will provide opportunities to connect our school to the neighborhood communities.

Building Community with Community – Curtis Creek FA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

Starting with our students' and our existing community's strengths, we will be building community with community at **Curtis Creek Elementary**. Our sesquicentennial celebration will be the learning vehicle for a school-wide series of student-centered projects. The two most prominent activities will be a school mural depicting 150 years of our school's history, synced with National history and an archaeological dig at our 1915 school site. The projects outlined in this grant will strengthen community relationships, build autonomy, and build on strengths and expertise of the stakeholders involved. The experiences detailed in this grant will be building blocks for learning and teaching now and in the future.

Sustain West Garden 2014 – Downey EA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

Cultivating our **West Middle School** Garden has proven to be literally life changing for many of our students. We have been able to support a lunchtime club that meets two times per week to plant, compost, till soil, weed, build and most importantly eat and learn from what we grow. Students have also benefitted from our start up vegetable and herb garden, and have actually learned to cook what they grow. The nutrition lessons have added a wonderful component to our Foods classes. In general, a whole campus appreciation has been created from our small plot of wonder. Our students now have a peaceful place to visit at lunchtime or with their teachers to smell, eat and indulge all of their senses in a practical all-encompassing learning environment. Students have become passionate about rainy days and how our garden is benefitting. It is a pleasure to see students walking around on campus with a stalk of celery in their hand, enjoying a snack they actually took part in growing on campus! This grant will enable us to keep this learning opportunity thriving on our campus and to add to the garden with more tools, planting, and educational enhancements for our students and West community.

The Dance Collaborative – Fontana TA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

This project will help support and create a collaboration between **A. B. Miller High School** Dance, PLACE Performance, The California Arts Project (TCAP), local dance artists and two Fontana USD elementary schools and their teachers to produce the Dance Collaborative. This project will create opportunities for elementary students to explore their artistic potential while providing professional development for their teachers in dance education. It will also provide an opportunity for high school students to create, implement and teach a dance module for 5th-grade students. Our students will work with PLACE and TCAP to develop a 6-session instruction module for the elementary school. These modules will use dance as a vehicle to explore the depths of the students' creative expression, artistic perception and kinesthetic awareness. Teachers will learn to incorporate dance concepts and ideas to enhance their classroom instruction.

Change the World Project – Fortuna UHS TA

Chapter Grant- \$16,800

Fortuna High's culminating "Change the World Project" allows every senior to develop their personal strengths and passions through unique service projects, connecting with and benefiting their local community and world as a whole, one project at a time. Students engage in brainstorming, budget writing, collaboration and networking with members of their community as they plan and execute their project alongside mentors from community agencies. This grant allows for the expansion of this inspiring and successful program from 30 students to 200 students. Funds will be used to pay for program costs, grant-writing assistance, a book-keeping system, and the hosting of community networking meetings.

Husky Fit – Fortuna UHS TA

Educator Grant- \$4,400

Husky Fit personalizes fitness for students by providing tools to develop lifelong fitness practices. Students at **Fortuna High School** learn to measure and assess their fitness levels. They keep fitness logs and develop goals while utilizing heart rate monitors and exercise equipment. Heart rate monitors provide vital feedback for

students as they learn to exercise in their target training zones, thereby maximizing the health benefits of their workouts. Jump ropes, resistance bands, and hurdles will improve cardiovascular and muscular endurance levels which in turn help students obtain a healthy body composition. Husky Fit sets the foundation for students to become involved in lifelong fitness activities.

A Coastal Community Network – Huntington Beach UHSD EA

Educator Grant- \$4,520

This project offers the opportunity for AP Environmental Science students at **Ocean View High School** to engage with the parents and students of our local elementary school. Focusing on their passions and strengths, this program connects the students and parents at **Oak View Elementary School** around shared interests in nature and science. In doing so, our project promotes a positive connection from the high school to the larger community. Planning field excursions, trainings, and lessons enhances students' opportunities to share knowledge and become more involved in school activities, the larger community, and helps to create life-long learners.

Parent University – Inglewood TA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

The Inglewood Teachers' Association leads from the strong belief that student success can be achieved when teachers, students, parents, and the community work as partners. Parent University has taken the first step to create, build, and nurture this very type of partnership, where each individual stakeholder has a voice in the creation of real and positive change. Previous IFT grants have provided our teachers with the resources needed to establish the Parent University at **Bennett-Kew Elementary**, as well as to expand to **Beulah Payne Elementary**. The program is run by parent and teacher volunteers. Monthly workshops attract 75-100 parents and family members. Attendance has increased approximately 30% during last school year. Workshop topics range from academic support, parent empowerment, child development, nutrition, and school and district structure. Monthly field trips with parents provide additional opportunities to strengthen our partnership. Through this program, parents now understand they have a voice when it comes to their child's education and that by working alongside teachers, positive change can be achieved. We are eager and hopeful that our program can continue and expand to an additional site next year.

Link Crew – Merced Union HS District TA

Educator Grant- \$4,000

Link Crew is a student-centered leadership and mentor program for incoming freshmen. This grant will help strengthen Link Crew to build back its strength at **Atwater High School**. Throughout their first year of high school, junior and senior students serve as a resource to help 9th-graders adapt to high school. The grant will enable program coordinators to provide activities to benefit all of the students who are involved.

Moreno Valley Math League (MVML) – Moreno Valley EA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

Teacher leaders in Moreno Valley are able to utilize this grant to continue and expand the Moreno Valley Math League (MVML) program to **all 8,000 MVUSD middle school students** and their families in 2014-15. In the second year of implementation, MVML leaders will create a student-centric learning environment where

Common Core standards of mathematical practices are intertwined in math content standards. Utilizing exploration, discovery and creativity, math classrooms will be transformed into learning laboratories. We appreciate the successful partnership with the Institute for Teaching to expand this holistic mathematical program that inculcates passion for Math and develops life-long learners.

IHTA Sustainable Hospitality Pathway Development – Mt. Diablo EA

Educator Grant- \$20,000

"The Sustainable Hospitality Pathway" proposal will use teacher driven, strength-based strategies to support a Career Technical Education Pathway at [Mount Diablo High School](#) that will build a strong community in the classroom while creating a culture of success for all students. Funding will support teachers to develop curriculum for a dual-course sequence teaching students the fundamentals of healthy food service, environmental science, and making hospitality and tourism more sustainable. Funds will also support a summer educational and after-school program teaching students the skills to grow, harvest, process, prepare and serve healthy meals, as well as develop their public speaking and professional skills.

Full STEAM Ahead – Oakdale TA

Educator Grant- \$4,990

This grant project is a fully interactive hands-on day for students in 36r-6th grades. All activities are geared to encourage students to explore science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The events, which will take place at [Sierra View Elementary School](#), begin with an introduction to STEAM. Then groups of students will rotate to various stations where they will have a mini lesson with an identified objective, a hands-on activity and a reflection piece. Community volunteers, parents, teachers and students will be involved in creating this learning-rich environment.

Goodness of Fit and Readiness – Ontario-Montclair TA

Educator Grant- \$4,500

The Goodness of Fit and Readiness (GoFaR) project is designed to support at-risk 7th & 8th graders at [Wiltsey Middle School](#). Taught in three phases (Self-Empowerment, Leadership, and Building Community), GoFaR is designed to help participants become productive and fulfilled citizens, both through their own efforts and with the help and support of others. Pre/post assessments identify behavioral preferences. GoFaR assists teachers/mentors to share their experiences with the participants and to provide vital encouragement and support throughout all phases of the process. It is a powerful tool that enables students to take responsibility for creating their own futures.

Just Keep Running – Ontario-Montclair TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

This project provides funds to continue The 100 Mile Club for a third year at [Ramona Academy](#). Staff, parents, and students continue to embrace the program and it has become imbedded in our school culture. The funds will help us cover membership fees, prizes, and entrance to weekend running events. Also, teachers will receive a small stipend for their year-long time and dedication. The 100 Mile Club will be used to foster better community involvement and strengthen the relationship with the families we serve. This program will ensure students have a safe environment to work on their health and fitness goals.

Murals over Vernon Entrances (MOVE) – Ontario-Montclair TA

Chapter Grant- \$5,000

This mural project is designed to increase ownership, pride and more student involvement at [Vernon Middle School](#). Most every classroom at Vernon has an approx. 3' by 3' wooden panel over the classroom entrance. The project would entail painting prominent scholars, citizens, politicians, entertainers deemed as role models by the students via instructional assistance at Vernon on the panels over the doorways. The advanced art class would design the paintings during class time and do the actual painting during after school hours.

Let's Get Outside! – Palm Springs TA

Chapter Grant- \$10,000

[James Workman Middle School](#) Physical Education teachers are challenging their 7th and 8th grade Adventure Classes to get outside and be active. The goal is to integrate curriculum from other subject areas to build a bigger picture of what living a healthy lifestyle can mean throughout one's life in the outdoors. Students will explore the bio-systems in the Coachella Valley, learn survival skills, and real-life outdoor experiences. The Let's Get Outside project will: Integrate cross-curricular subject matter; develop resources and community connections to experience outdoor activities; encourage lifelong physical activity that will decrease the number of obese youth at JWMS. The objective is to provide camping and hiking equipment to develop an experiential education classroom setting, including day and overnight destination field trips. Grant funds will be used to help complete 10 camping labs. The camping labs are designed for students to use in class and, after passing a safety assessment, they will be allowed to check out the equipment to go camping with their families. Our experience has demonstrated that students learn and retain knowledge from practical, hands-on experiences. We want to provide our students the opportunity to explore, analyze, and interpret the natural world we live in.

Next Generation Kindergarten Scientists – Palm Springs TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

This project will allow the kindergarten team at [Della Lindley Elementary](#) to support and expand their science program. It is based on the belief that there are great strengths at all levels of our school community. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are based on the principle that children are born investigators that explore and interact with their world and that scientific concepts are naturally engaging. At the district level, excellent science mentors will provide science trainings. In addition, teachers will participate in science and Project Based Learning trainings to develop strategies to facilitate science instruction. There will be opportunities to include "science buddies" (older students), as well as parent participation with "Science Hikes" and presentations. Our community is also rich with resources from individual organizations and presenters.

Reflection Garden – Ramona TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

This project would allow the school community to create a Reflection garden on the school property at [Ramona Community School](#) for the students to learn about the needs and care necessary in growing food, flowers, and herbs. It would include special areas for sitting in small groups and alone in order to provide the opportunity for communing with nature and reflecting on things that are important in their lives.

Sculpting the Future – Redlands TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

This grant is designed to provide students at [Citrus Valley High School](#) with an opportunity to explore the concept of sculpture, while learning important life-long skills of planning, time management, and tool use/safety. For many high school students, the idea of using tools to create something uniquely their own is completely foreign. This grant will be used to implement a new sculpture course on the high school campus; one that allows for personal expression in the form of sculpture, and teaches the importance of tool use and work safety.

Delta Blooms Floral Shop: Cultivating Creativity– River Delta Unified TA

Chapter Grant- \$19,825

This grant will assist in developing a multi-department relationship that is centered on student achievement and success in career growth, while highlighting student strengths, creativity and individuality. As Clarksburg and the surrounding area does not offer a lot of job opportunities, a floral shop serves a twofold purpose. It provide students hands-on job skills in designing, marketing and producing a product, as well as providing the community with a place to locally purchase fresh floral designs in uniquely crafted vessels. The design, marketing and publishing will be a part of the visual art department's digital media class and its curriculum will be incorporated into the Art and Agriculture departments of [Delta High School](#) and [Clarksburg Middle School](#).

Caught in the Middle in Third Grade – Salida TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

Teachers at [Dena Boer Elementary](#) designed a project to build on the lessons of the book, *That's My Buddy: Friendship and Learning across the Grades*. Their third graders, in order to feel connected and engaged, will buddy up with first graders. When the buddy classes meet, the third graders will read books to the first graders followed by well thought out comprehension questions. After time, as the first graders become more capable readers, the roles will reverse and the first graders will read to the third graders. The third graders will scaffold reading by providing phonemic support and quality comprehension questions. By doing so, the third graders will also be learning how to better support their own reading skills. In addition, two third graders will read a preselected picture book to the classes. The book chosen for the oral reading will either support an event for the month or a targeted character trait. After reading the literature book, buddies will assist the first graders with an art project connecting to the oral reading.

Out of the Box – San Joaquin County EA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

The Out of the Box project will place thirty 7th-12th grade SJCOE special education students in collaborative relationships with California Waterfowl Association mentors to establish a sustainable population of Wood Ducks in the riparian oak habitat of Historic Durham Ferry School of Agriculture and Outdoor Education. Located on 290 acres along the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley, Duck Boxes placed at Durham Ferry would provide nesting space for over 100 ducklings to hatch from each year. The grant would also fund cameras and a website, providing real time classroom access to the nests from [Stockton and Manteca school sites](#).

The Home Visit Project –Southwest TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

The grant team at [Emory Elementary](#) believes in strength based change and they intend to be the change they want to see. They will begin by creating relationships with each of their students and their parents/caregivers via home visits. They will bring a bag of resources for students to keep at home to help them succeed in sixth grade. Parents will share their child's strengths, students will share what is important to them in their lives, and teachers will start to build a successful triad of learning. Grant funds will be used to purchase needed supplies, as well as for teacher stipends.

The Spade Brigade Resiliency Garden – TA of Norwalk-La Mirada

Educator Grant- \$5,000

This garden project at [Garenhill Elementary](#) is designed to be an intervention for our socially and emotionally at-risk students. The goal of the project is to use gardening to develop key traits that affect self-esteem and promote resiliency. Each team will be composed of a community mentor, student leader, and two children identified to be at risk. Younger members will return the following year as the team leader. Students will experience the importance of decision making, problem solving, delayed gratification, nurturing living organisms, and being concerned and caring for something other than themselves.

Solar for Success: Phase 2 – Temecula Valley EA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

This program of hands-on, real-world, job-oriented learning experiences changes lives! It uses real-world applications in math and science to build a hands-on "school to work" program for at-risk students from [Rancho Vista Continuation High School](#). Through teacher teamwork, math and science instruction is aligned with work applications. These approach makes this knowledge valuable and relevant to students for the first time in many of their school careers and has led to an increased graduation and attendance rates, and higher grades for participants. This project is the natural progression to another aspect of the program--from outside hands-on to "inside," generating sales proposals and learning the permitting process for local governments. This rounds out the program and provides an avenue for students who have slightly different strengths than the installation side of the business, thereby expanding our base of potential students we can help.

Shakespearepalooza – Travis Unified TA

Chapter Grant- \$7,300

Shakespeare's works are essential to our secondary English Language Arts curriculum at [Vanden High School](#) and [Golden West Middle School](#). The best way to teach the Bard is to invite kids to leave their seats and interact with the evocative Elizabethan language. Our team leaders were selected and trained in a special Globe Education Academy program for teachers in London, England. They will share these interactive methods with participating teachers, who will teach students to closely examine language by connecting text to physical movement. The work will culminate in a multi-grade performance festival, "Shakespearepalooza," featuring adaptations of five plays. This project will foster an appreciation for Shakespeare, and will prepare teachers to use these interactive strategies when teaching literature for all classes for years to come.

School Culture – United Educators of San Francisco

Educator Grant- \$5,000

The purpose of this grant is to further strengthen the school culture at **June Jordan School for Equity** by stabilizing and improving our advisory curriculum and resourcing our school-wide events. Our advisory system is at the core of our approach to community centered social justice education and is the only class that meets daily. In order to fully harness the strength of this critical aspect of our school design, grant funds will be used to promote the following goals: (1) to compile, organize and format the most effective curriculum that already exists; (2) to develop new curriculum to fill gaps and make connections; and (3) to plan and execute whole school events that build off the spirit of the advisory classes. These events will include transformative welcome week, gratitude day, spirit week and wellness week.

Agriculture Science – Val Verde TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

Creating an agricultural class at **Lakeside Middle School** will give students the opportunity to become garden-literate. They will learn about the environment, improve leadership and social skills and work together as a class to accomplish a common goal.+

Hydroponics and Aquaponics – Val Verde TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

This grant will provide funds for the establishment of a hydroponic system and the continued growth of an aquaponics system for the Plant and Soil Science class in the CTE AgriScience Pathway at **Rancho Verde High School**. The project allows for the purchase of materials to design, build, and create scientific experiments to determine the efficacy of using aquaponics and hydroponics as a medium for vegetable and crop production. Not only does this program target students immediately entering the career field after high school, it also fuses the development of scientific thinking with the actual production of goods, making it intrinsically motivational. Students will also develop business and marketing skills.

It's My Life – Ventura Unified EA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

It's My Life is a life skills/character-development program at **Pacific High School** that has been called "Blueprint for Adulthood" and "the missing link". It is both a program and a process that focuses on critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision making. We are in our 8th year. The curriculum involves 250+ daily lesson, incorporates discussion, writing, reading and interaction in developing student tools and their own personal roadmap. With the assistance of previous IFT grants, the program has evolved by incorporating many great ideas from students and teachers. We have exposed nearly 1,000 teachers and administrators to the principles of It's My Life. They have learned how this program supports student behavior and expanded learning, while simultaneously stoking passion for all.

Academic Outreach Continued– Washington TA

Chapter Grant- \$20,000

This grant renewal will allow teachers to continue our Academic Outreach (AO) program at **River City High School**. AO provides intervention to students who are failing academically or are in danger of "slipping through the cracks." We invite students to come to a safe, after school work environment 2-3 days a week. Teachers and student tutors provide mandatory tutoring and study hall for 90 minutes after school so students get necessary academic, social, emotional, and physical support. We hold them accountable for their grades, work completion, character/choices, and future plans. Our initial query last year generated over 300 names of 9-12th graders with a <1.5 GPA. This is an obvious area of great need in our community. Results of the first year of the program showed higher attendance, improved grades and fewer disciplinary referrals for many of our participants.

Creating Career Choices – Wheatland High TA

Chapter Grant- \$17,000

This future-oriented project is designed for AVID, Freshman Academy and Special Education students at **Wheatland High School**. It is designed to focus the students' knowledge of career and college options and build the necessary skills to be successful in their postsecondary education or in the workplace. The college and career research projects have been developed to enhance student exposure of expository text to improve reading, writing and public speaking skills.