

CTA Institute for Teaching

CTA Board Report:
January 2015

February 6, 2015
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fairmont Hotel, San Jose

Join Us for a Special Session at the Pre-GTC

Teacher Innovation Expo

IFT's Teacher Innovation Expo will help kick-off February's CTA Good Teaching Conference- North in San Jose. The all-day Expo will give participants time to listen, reflect, and dialogue about innovative ideas across all grade levels involving the arts, parent engagement, STEM education, school gardens, civic engagement and more.

The Teacher Innovation Expo will provide an opportunity for IFT Teacher Think Tank members and their invited guests to engage with other CTA members who have implemented strength-based projects in their classrooms and schools. Registration for the Expo is free.

The Expo is divided into three parts:

Project Presentations: IFT Grant recipients and Teacher Leadership Cohort members will describe the scope, purpose, success, and challenges of their projects.

Grant Showcase: No vendors- but 1:1 time and additional information from practitioners to stimulate your thinking.

Grant Selection Panel: Insights into the grant writing and selection process and support on a real-time grant application.

IFT Grants can provide resources to tap into the passions that CTA members feel for the work in their classrooms, at their school sites and within their school communities. IFT believes that member-driven creativity, enthusiasm and inspiration are the keys to transforming the profession.

CTA's Institute for Teaching is the non-profit, non-political arm of CTA that is founded on the belief that change should be teacher driven, focused on positive choices, and based on the Seven Factors supporting a school culture of success that are outlined in IFT's Strength-Based Matrix.

For more information, please call the CTA Institute for Teaching at 619-683-3990 or go to the Good Teaching Conference website: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1>



Among the dozen presenters at the Teacher Innovation Expo will be Bonnie Magill from Marysville H.S. (above, with student team leaders from her agriculture literacy project) and Kory Bootsma from Rancho Verde H.S. (below, in her Plant & Soil Science class). They will be joined by ten other outstanding educators who have shared their expertise with students and colleagues in their respective school communities.



It's Time! Grant Applications Being Accepted for 2015-16 School Year

To demonstrate the effectiveness of Strength-Based approaches to learning, all CTA members are eligible to apply. Please visit www.teacherdrivenchange.org for more information.

When high school dance instructor Nicole Robinson applied for an IFT grant in 2013, she had no idea how many Fontana students would benefit from the generosity of CTA members, whose voluntary dues contributions fund the IFT Grant Program. The \$5,000 grant she received that year enabled Nicole and her colleagues to work with other fine arts advocates in the Riverside area to produce the successful community-based Riverside Trolley Dances.

In 2014, Nicole applied for and received a \$20,000 grant to help support and create a collaboration between A. B. Miller High School Dance, PLACE Performance, The California Arts Project (TCAP), local dance artists and elementary schools in the Fontana USD to produce the Dance Collaborative.

This project is creating opportunities for elementary students to explore their artistic potential while providing professional development for their teachers in dance education. It also provides an opportunity for high school students to create, implement and teach six dance instruction modules for 4th & 5th-grade students. The modules will use dance as a vehicle to explore the depths of the students' creative expression, artistic perception and kinesthetic awareness. 180 students in eight elementary schools are currently working with the Miller High School students.

Nicole Robinson is one of 38 CTA members to receive an IFT grant for 2014-15. In total, \$398,355 in grants were awarded for this school year. Over the past five years, IFT has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to CTA members from Pre-K through Community College & CSU.

Since 2009, the CTA Institute for Teaching has been utilizing CTA members' voluntary dues contributions to fund strength-based teacher driven projects at schools all over California. This is a competitive grant program and grant proposals are evaluated by the IFT Grant Selection Committee, made up of educators from around the state. In the first five years of the program, IFT received a total of 322 grant applications, while funding 128 grants.

By providing these resources, IFT is helping to support the CTA Strategic Plan's call to "Transform Our Profession" by actively promoting authentic opportunities for teacher leadership. According to Doug Reeves, an expert on student achievement and educational equity, "A radical transformation toward teacher leadership is not an option; it is a necessity." IFT is working to assist our union in having a real voice in school transformation by supporting our members as they shape the future of teaching and public education in California.



Using grant funds from IFT, more than a dozen dance students from A. B. Miller High School in Fontana accompanied their advisor to the San Diego Trolley Dances in October 2013. Pictured above are some of the dancers who performed at the Barrio Logan trolley stop for an appreciative crowd. These students took their inspiration back to the Inland Empire and worked with organizers to perform and produce the 2nd-annual Riverside Trolley Dances. Project directors said that their success could not have happened without the contributions of the students.



IFT Workshops at CTA Issues Conference- January 17-18, 2015- Las Vegas
Teacher Innovation Expo at CTA Good Teaching Conference - February 6, 2015- San Jose
IFT Board of Directors Meeting – February 26, 2015- Burlingame