



CTA Institute for Teaching

CTA Board Report
July 2015

Strength-Based Grant Projects Stimulate Success Statewide

Thirty-Nine Grants Awarded to CTA Members for the 2015-16 school year

The IFT Board of Directors met on June 18, 2015 and approved funding for more than three dozen grant proposals from CTA members for the 2015-16 school year. **The awards total \$493,910, the largest single year total since the IFT grant program began six years ago.** (Please turn over to see a 6-year program summary).

The Grant Selection Committee’s recommendations came after they reviewed nearly one hundred grant applications over a two-day period in May. Liane Cismowski, IFT Board and Grant Selection Committee member, said that the proposals have become more highly refined each year as understanding and awareness of IFT’s Strength-Based Matrix has increased.

Among the group of recommended projects, nearly one-fourth involve older students working directly with their younger colleagues. Although the strength-based instructional focus varies from school to school, subjects for 2015-16 include cross-grade level projects in Astronomy, Agriculture, Ancient History, Canoeing, Dance, Math, Robotics and Science.

As part of the application process, local Association Presidents agree to have the local chapter serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the grant recipient. This increases accountability and insures that the individual member incurs no tax liability.



Two outstanding teachers in Southern California will be receiving their third consecutive IFT grant award. In Fontana, A.B. Miller High School teacher Nicole Robinson (pictured here with some of her dance students), has created the Dance Collaborative. Her project has not only supported the growth of the high school’s dance program, but has also strengthened community connections and enabled her students to work directly with elementary students in selected schools in this Inland Empire community. Learn more at abmillerdance.com/ In nearby Moreno Valley, teacher Deepika Srivastava has been building a districtwide community supporting mathematics instruction and engagement. She and her middle school colleagues have created a holistic math program that allows their students (pictured at the 2015 Moreno Valley Math League Finals) to not only learn, but also serve as Math Ambassadors for young students. Administrators and parents share the belief that the MVML transforms students who were technology consumers into technology creators and innovators. Please read this article from Riverside County’s [Press Enterprise](#) for more information on the [Moreno Valley Math League](#).



IFT’s grant projects reflect the diverse interests and passions of CTA members from around the state. For detailed information, please go to teacherdrivenchange.org/grants. Next year’s 39 funded grant projects can be broadly classified as follows:

- ❖ STEM & STEAM
- ❖ School Gardens
- ❖ Agricultural Literacy
- ❖ Student Success/Leadership
- ❖ Language Arts & Technology
- ❖ Business Education
- ❖ Visual & Performing Arts
- ❖ Physical Education/Fitness
- ❖ Community Connections

IFT GRANT PROGRAM: By the Numbers

Thanks to the generosity of CTA members, since 2010, the Institute for Teaching has the good fortune to be able to utilize voluntary dues contributions to provide classroom, schoolwide and Association grants to support outstanding strength-based projects designed by classroom practitioners, support staff and education support professionals from pre-school to Cal State University.

GRANT YEAR	TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED	TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED	NUMBER OF EDUCATOR GRANTS	NUMBER OF IMPACT GRANTS	AWARD RATE
2010-11	49	12	\$90,590	8	4	24.5%
2011-12	31	11	\$77,680	5	6	35.5%
2012-13	55	33	\$350,390	18	15	60.0%
2013-14	69	34	\$357,848	19	15	49.3%
2014-15	118	38	\$398,355	24	14	32.2%
2015-16	93	39	\$493,910	15	24	41.9%
TOTALS	415	167	\$1,768,773	89	78	40.2%



The National Education Association's Health Information Network (NEA-HIN) is excited to introduce their new name, new logo and a deeper focus. Educators will still find the great school health and safety information and resources to count on, and of course, their flagship program, **Breakfast in the Classroom**.

Their Mission: To empower educators to champion safe and healthy schools where students thrive.

Their Vision: Every student and educator is healthy, safe, and ready to succeed.

Over the next several years, NEA Healthy Futures will focus on:

- *Student Mental & Behavioral Health*
- *School Climate & Social Emotional Learning*
- *School Employee Wellness & Stress*
- *School Crisis Prevention, Preparation, Response & Recovery*



Their engaging new user-friendly website features fresh content each week and makes it easy to find what you're looking for. So come meet the new **NEA Healthy Futures** (www.neahealthfutures.org). They believe that healthy students, educators, and learning environments are essential to great public schools.



The CTA Institute for Teaching (IFT) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
 IFT supports strength-based teacher driven change in school communities across California.
Please contact IFT at 619-683-3990 or at contact@teacherdrivenchange.org