



IFT 2015-16 Grants

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

Discovery Club – Association of Colfax Educators

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

This grant supports the continued expansion of **Colfax Elementary's** After-School Program, beyond Bulldog Athletics and Homework Club, to include DISCOVERY Clubs, the new enrichment component long sought and well received in its first year by our small rural community. DISCOVERY provides a diverse selection of fun and 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. Throughout the year, 2nd-8th students will choose from a dynamic variety of offerings in arts and crafts, music, cooperative and critical-thinking games, technology and design, and theater.

High Performance Mathematics – Association of Colton Educators

Impact Grant- \$ 15,928

Common Core asks teachers to prepare students using real life applications and problem solving abilities. Using a research based program called HiPerMath, **Ruth Harris Middle School** students will work in teams using science and math on simulators to build car engines and race cars on a virtual race track. This activity demonstrates the importance of math and develops collaborative skills. This program would directly support, grow and sustain interest in STEM activities in underrepresented populations and prepare students for High School Engineering pathways. This project addresses 4 critical areas that are needed in the 21st century educational movement: Critical Thinking, Communication, Creativity and Collaboration.

Good Heart Chicana/o and Native Science Project – CFA- CSU Northridge

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

Good Heart Chicana/o and Native Science is an interdisciplinary project designed to inspire low-income Latina/o and Native American student populations towards STEAM disciplines through the subject of climate change. Over the course of the project, third through fifth graders at **San Fernando Elementary** will study the use of the local land base in the past (social studies, environmental science), perform hands-on projects that reflect the current reality (science, technology) and, with mentored guidance, actively plan a local, impactful project (technology, engineering, art) that takes into account the needs of their families, fellow students and community.

C2: Creative Connections – Chico Unified TA

Impact Grant- \$ 19,100

The success of our **Pleasant Valley High School** pARTnership for the FUTURE grant in 2014-15 has encouraged a new collaboration joining the visual and performing arts in C2: Creative Connections. Music is an integral part of students' lives and through its incorporation into the visual arts, greater opportunities for students will result. Music and art teachers and our Teacher-Librarian will create curriculum and activities that unite students, parents, and community in experiences where students use their strengths. C2 builds on a strong foundation. We plan to take the next step by applying our learning to a strength-based curriculum that intertwines visual and performing arts.

Robotics and Engineering – Covina Unified EA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

The Robotics and Engineering grant would support a wide range of students from **Traweek Middle School** and **Covina High School**. Robotics supplies are cost-prohibitive to the point that few school sites maintain an active robotics club or class. This grant would ensure that a robotics club would exist on both campuses and would pay for robotics supplies and competition fees. Many of these costs are one-time fees that would get the ball rolling toward establishing annual support for robotics by our district administration.

Growing Healthy Students- Desert Sands TA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

The goal of this proposal is to strengthen and advocate stronger student, family, and community involvement while striving to promote physical fitness and academic scholars. **Hoover Elementary** will aim to increase 2015-16 student health and wellness by promoting school-wide student membership in The 100 Mile Club®, and group participation, to include transitional kinder through fifth grade students, and family and staff members, in at least 5 local 5Ks. The entire staff is committed to providing an expanded physical education program in and out of the classroom while advocating a culture of lifelong health-related fitness and active lifestyles, physical competence, cognitive understanding, positive attitudes, and to promoting healthy scholars~ today, tomorrow, and for life!

Stauffer Enrichment Garden – Downey EA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

At **Stauffer Middle School**, we feel, that eating is an Ecological Act; the production, consumption and marketing of food is the key to everything. Students will become engaged in the food chain, and how food choices can affect the Energy crisis, Climate crisis and Healthcare crisis in our country. The garden opens up all of these lessons that could not be more hands on STEM. In the recently expanded garden, our teachers work as a team to expose more students to a variety of foods, have them learn to problem solve, enhance their social skills. Now, school wide, Nutrition, Math, English and Science lessons can all be better understood when students grow the foods they are learning about, while harvesting, cooking and eating as well. We want to teach the students the importance of not just growing their own food, but also the value of respecting the earth and having a thorough understanding of our earth's resources.

Kaweah High School Ag Program – Exeter TA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

This project provides students at **Kaweah High School** the opportunity to gain basic knowledge of Ornamental Horticulture and to gain hands-on experience in the nursery and floral industries. They will sustain a greenhouse, outside garden, tree nursery and floral design that becomes more productive with age. Students will have opportunities to become involved in school activities, learn valuable life skills and to develop their own personal strengths through unique service projects, field experiences, and career exploration. Ultimately, our goal is to implement an Agricultural Work Readiness Program where students are instructed on the application and interview process, writing resumes, and seeking letters of recommendations.

The Dance Collaborative – Fontana TA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

This is a renewal of a grant which was funded for the 2014-2015 school year, which will provide a dance education partnership with two new schools for the 2015-2016 school year. 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 2 Fontana Unified School District elementary schools and their teachers to produce the Dance Collaborative. This project will create opportunity for elementary students explore their artistic potential while providing professional development for their teachers in dance education. It will also provide an opportunity for A. B. Miller High School students to create, implement and teach a 6 course dance module for 4th and 5th grade students and their teachers 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.

Edison High School Robotics – Fresno TA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

The **Edison High School** Robotics team is a rapidly growing part of the school's academic section. Receiving exponential growth in the past two years, the team is expected to receive an influx of new members in the 2016 school year. The team is applying for this grant in order to be able to expand our outreach to attract more and more students to the STEM related fields of education in the coming years. Currently supporting 30 members, the team will use funds to support a larger team, and also to expand and develop our community outreach efforts.

The PAW Press School Newspaper/Newspaper Club – Fullerton Elementary TA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

Students must be taught to think deeply and use literacy skills across content areas, and learn to argue instead of persuade in their writing. A school newspaper gets at the heart of this by challenging students to engage in meaningful work targeted to real audiences. This grant will inaugurate and produce a monthly School Newspaper, The PAW Press, and Newspaper Club at **Woodcrest Elementary**, a Title I K-6 elementary school. It will meet the objective of providing our ELL students with 21st century Writing, Communication, and Technology skills, which they will need to succeed in college and their careers. Through the guidance of the Club's teacher advisors, local journalist professionals, and educational excursions, students will develop/conduct interviews, write articles and columns, design monthly features, and collaborate to produce a monthly newspaper, and contribute to our school's mission and focus as a Technology & Communication magnet.

Prepare/Care/Share: Using Engineering to Make Global Connections! – Garden Grove EA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

This program will use engineering activities to empower 5th grade students at **Murdy Elementary**, to create, design and improve technologies. 5th grade teachers will partner with parents and after school Kids Club, to give students real life, hands on, experiences using Engineering is Elementary curriculum. Engineering is an important component of STEM education. More importantly, through helping students become engaged, motivated, and excited about the learning process, it can act as a catalyst for global awareness as students extend their engineering projects to help others!

CIBACS- The Center for International Business and Communications Studies – Huntington Beach UHSD EA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

Innovation, critical thinking, communication skills and confidence will improve for the students involved in CIBACS. Our successful business program at **Edison High School** is in need of financial support in order to put the right technology tools in the hands of our creative business students. By giving our energetic young entrepreneurs the right technology to use in class on a daily basis, they will improve both their written and verbal communication skills. Our focus on developing their communication skills is perfectly timed to match the new emphasis on the Common Core Standards.

Imperial Valley Discovery Zone – Imperial Valley TA

Impact Grant- \$20,000

The Imperial Valley Discovery Zone (IVDZ) will utilize high school students to facilitate teacher generated NGSS-aligned lessons for elementary-aged students in the **Imperial Valley Unified School District**. Instructional days will be whole days of STEM learning. IVDZ instruction will include field trips to local sites of science learning. In addition, IVDZ will support STEM literacy in our region by organizing engineering challenges, maintaining a Makerspace, and attending community events with informal STEM exhibits. Our mission is to tap into our region's natural curiosity to bolster their knowledge and interest in STEM learning. We plan a complete shift in the way science is taught in favor of a more student-centered approach, making learning enjoyable.

Me and the World: Developing Intercultural Communication Competence in Bilingual Students – Lennox TA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

Moffett Elementary houses the Lennox School District's Dual Language Program, a 50/50 English and Spanish simultaneous language acquisition model. The IFT Grant was previously awarded to Moffett to create multicultural units that have been successfully implemented, however, through the process of implementation, we have determined that further development is needed. Research on intercultural communication competence stresses that students need to have a more informed understanding of their culture and language and how they see the world in order to successfully interact and build relationships. Our proposal focuses on building metalinguistic awareness and cultural understanding to guide and effectively prepare our students to participate fully in the diverse, interconnected and innovation oriented global societies of the 21st Century.

WeatherBug Weather Station – Martinez EA

Impact Grant- \$ 16,240

The instructional shifts required for quality teaching and learning with the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Math, along with the Next Generation Science Standards, emphasize the 4 Cs - creativity, creative thinking, communication and collaboration. Teachers are motivated to integrate math, science, and ELA into meaningful experiences for our students. At **John Swett Elementary**, we would like to bring the dynamic and interactive WeatherBug program to our district. This includes a standards-based curriculum, professional development, as well as a scientific-grade weather station that can be integrated with our existing technology.

Agriculture Literacy – Marysville Unified TA

Impact Grant- \$ 12,195

The **Marysville High School** Agriculture Department (280 students) would like to continue their role as educators of Agriculture Literacy to over 2,800 K-8 students within the Marysville Joint Unified School District. Agriculture Literacy integrates Agriculture Education into the common core standards of K-8 curriculum and covers all disciplines including science, math, language arts and social studies. The CTA-IFT grant received in 2013 for Agriculture Literacy provided tremendous growth in our district in the area of agriculture education. This past year we have taught NGSS at three other elementary schools and have participated in a nutrition fair with two educational booths. Principals are starting to recruit the high school students to teach a science unit at their individual elementary schools.

Moreno Valley Math League – Moreno Valley EA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

Teacher leaders at **Moreno Valley Unified School District** (MVUSD) are pleased to continue the Moreno Valley Math League (MVML) program for 8,000 middle school students and expand it to all 34,000 families of MVUSD during the 2015-16 school year. In 2015-16, MVML intends to transform traditional classrooms into vibrant learning communities by broadening the goal of mathematics education from mere mastery of algorithms to development of critical thinking and problem solving skills. We look forward to another year of successful partnership with IFT to expand this holistic mathematical program that transforms students who were technology consumers into technology creators and innovators.

MDHS IHTA Sustainable Hospitality Proposal – Mount Diablo EA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

This proposal will use teacher driven, strength-based strategies to further develop a Career Technical Education Pathway at **Mount Diablo High School**, with Career-Tech Education in Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation. MDHS staff will build a strong community in the classroom while creating a culture of success for all students. Funding will support student Internships and field studies. 12th grade Sustainable Tourism students will complete a 40 hour professional Internship with one of 10 Industry partners, including the National Park Service, East Bay Regional Parks. Students will work 40 hours off campus in exchange for academic credit and a \$200 stipend. In addition, 10th & 11th students will earn \$200 to participate in a 10 week after-school program or 3 week summer program in which students will learn to grow, harvest, process, cook and serve healthy meals from scratch.

Learn to Grow, Grow to Learn – Oceanside TA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

“Learn to Grow, Grow to Learn” is a proposal to create a garden at our K-8 school in Oceanside, California. In cooperation with neighboring schools, local students, and the Camp Pendleton community, “Learn to Grow, Grow to Learn” will offer students the opportunity to plan, plant, tend, and reap the fruits of their labor through the academic scope of life science. With student-driven, hands-on learning, “Learn to Grow, Grow to Learn” will sow the seeds of scientific intellect and inquiry within the young minds at **Santa Margarita Elementary**.

Student Ambassadors– Oceanside TA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

Garrison Elementary Student Ambassadors is a group of 3rd through 5th grade students who participate as leaders and role models in student government. Students are voted and/or appointed by their classmates and teachers and meet weekly to plan and implement services and events for the school and community. We annually hold a "No Bullying Week: Because Nice Matters", a Red Ribbon Week (anti-drug), a Spirit Week and participate in The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Pennies for Patients" fund raiser. We have also performed in the school talent show and paired with pre-school teachers to host an Autism Awareness Week. The monies from the ITF Grant would be used to augment the current Student Ambassadors program and provide more opportunities for Student Ambassadors to serve the school, students, parents, staff and community.

GoFaR The Goodness of Fit and Readiness – Ontario-Montclair TA

Impact Grant- \$ 16,400

To continue GoFaR at **Wiltsey Middle School** and extend to one more OMSD Middle School. Taught in three phases; Self-Empowerment, Leadership, and Building Community, GoFaR helped Wiltsey students, both through their own efforts and with the help and support of others during the 2014-15 year become academically productive and fulfilled citizens. 41% of students saw an increase in their overall ELA & math grades, 76% of all students increased their reading level by one or more grades and 53% maintained a satisfactory or above rating on their overall behavior performance.

Follow Your Arrow – Palm Springs TA

Impact Grant- \$ 10,000

James Workman Middle School's Adventure Education teachers, are challenging their 7th and 8th grade Adventure Classes to "Follow their arrows" wherever they go. The Follow Your Arrow project will be implementing archery, a non-traditional sport, into the existing Adventure Education program. We believe that adding archery to the program will: build self-confidence, advance student motivation, better student behavior, and improve student concentration and focus by using archery skills. Everyone can enjoy success in archery whether or not they are the tallest, fastest, or strongest person around. Archery can help students develop concentration and life skills. It also offers them extra incentives to keep up the good work – and the good grades. Students of all genders, abilities and backgrounds can flourish. Students learn to wait their turn, follow directions, set goals and challenge themselves as they learn the rules and etiquette associated with archery. Archery develops character, and students will benefit the rest of their lives.

NGSS- STEM to STEAM – Palm Springs TA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

The kindergarten and first grade teams of **Della Lindley Elementary**, are submitting this application to continue to support our science program, including STEM and STEAM concepts. We also want to expand this vertically to include the first grade. NGSS are based on the principle that children are born investigators, who naturally explore and interact with their world. This school year we recruited parents and older students who are enthusiastic about supporting younger students with questioning, recording data and using technology. At the community level, we have businesses and organizations that provide informative and engaging presentations. At the state level, the California Education and Environmental Initiative continues to provide trainings using NGSS lessons at the kinder and first grade level.

King Arthur's Chair – Salida TA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

King Author's Chair will provide a motivating experience for students who are learning to read and write. At **Independence Charter School**, there is a throne (King Author's Chair) in which students read to the class. This program will take the Author's Chair to another level by archiving students' readings onto a digital video library. During the first portion of this program, each student will be recorded while reading familiar picture books aloud. Guest readers from the community will be given the opportunity to record a read-aloud for our digital library. The other portion of the program will involve students creating, publishing, and sharing their own stories.

Growing Relationships – San Bernardino TA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

There are so many benefits of adding gardens to our communities' schools. Many schools, like **Davidson Elementary School**, lack the ingredients and resources to build their own gardens. Our goal is to partner with Kellogg Garden Products to work with students to build a healthy garden. We will encourage students to build organic gardens, and will be rewarding them for their innovative thinking. Our students will design the blueprint for a raised bed garden and determine all of the materials that will be needed to build and maintain our garden

Babies and Beads – San Diego EA

Impact Grant- \$ 10,000

Babies and Beads is a non-profit organization that provides job training, mentoring, parenting education classes, career planning and program services to students who are parenting or are at risk, ages 18 to 22 years old. The goal is to teach these students to be self-sufficient by training them to make and sell jewelry. Profits generated from jewelry sales will assist students in buying baby necessities, while they learn job skills and complete their education. We serve students' who attend **TRACE/San Diego Unified School District**, have a disability, live in San Diego, and have not completed a high school diploma.

Journey Along the Silk Road – Southwest TA

Educator Grant- \$ 3,126

This grant will support the "Journey Along the Silk Road," a partnership between 6th grade and primary classrooms at **Emory Elementary** culminating in a simulation event. IFT funding will be used to cover the cost of event materials, incentives, and teacher compensation. Sixth graders will work with primary buddies on a monthly basis as mentor readers, sharing their knowledge of ancient cultures through digital/oral presentations and other CCSS activities. Sixth grade students will also plan and design all elements for a simulated journey along the Silk Road. Because of the scope of this event, parents will be utilized in planning and organizing.

Lakewood Lion's Roar – Sunnyvale EA

Educator Grant- \$ 2,695

In the 2014-15 school year, we began a newspaper for **Lakewood Elementary School**. The Lion's Roar has been a big success. Many of our Lakewood students are English learners, and come from households without a high degree of literacy. The Lion's Roar has given students an opportunity to learn about research, technology, and publishing for authentic audiences, all in a rigorous, collaborative, student-driven environment. The newspaper has helped to make reading and writing exciting for students throughout the school.

Five Corners of IB (5C IB) – Sweetwater EA

Educator Grant- \$ 2,500

The purpose of this grant is to build student appreciation and knowledge of this unique, most southwesterly corner of California where we reside, Imperial Beach (IB). We will explore the five corners of Imperial Beach: seaside, estuary, farmland, border and bay. In the process we will engage students, inspiring their internal motivation to learn and grow. Our end product: mural, podcast, movie and walking tour brochure will be available for our community to enjoy and use (in three languages: English, Spanish and Filipino.) IB is a one-high-school town, and students of **Mar Vista High School** are diverse in language, economy and culture. With this foundation, students and the community will continue to build on this homegrown appreciation of our community using our final products-- virtual, visual, audio and artistically produced.

Mentoring Middle School Students in Robotics – TA of Long Beach

Impact Grant- \$ 14,020

Collaboration between California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS) and Colin Powell Academy will help develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills by using robotics and the engineering design process. **Middle school students** will be provided after school bus transportation to CAMS, where the high school students will mentor their younger peers in a series of robotics workshops. These workshops will be designed by students, and will focus on mechanical and electrical systems and computer programming.

Spade Brigade Resiliency Garden – TA of Norwalk-La Mirada

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

The **Gardenhill Elementary** Spade Brigade Garden project 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 protective traits that affect self-esteem and promote resiliency. Each team will be composed of a community member mentor, student leader, and two children identified as at-risk. Younger members will return the following year as the team leader to train and mentor new members. Students will experience the importance of decisions making, problem solving, delayed gratification, nurturing living organisms, and being concerned and caring for something other than themselves.

Foxboro Garden: Fox to Fork! – Travis Unified TA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

The **Foxboro Elementary** Garden, established in 1995, is a special place for learners of all ages and abilities. From soil-and-seed to dining plate, it allows hands-on experiences related to many of our goals for Life Science, Math, and Language Arts, to name a few. Raised-bed planting spaces serve as a home base for a variety of projects; we are eager to improve the safety of our aging wooden boxes, and expand with eco-friendly raised-beds. Along with native California plants for our insect and Social Studies units, our beloved outdoor classroom will also benefit from shade structure improvements and multi-student handwashing stations.

GLAD for the Arts – Twin Rivers United Educators

Impact Grant- \$ 17,500

Educators at **Joyce Elementary** believe student learning will be enhanced with the school wide implementation of Guided Language Acquisition and Design (GLAD) strategies and visual and performing arts integration. GLAD strategies and VAPA integration will engage and motivate students leading to deeper learning and understanding of concepts, as well as an increase in broadly applicable skills and master of grade level standards. GLAD strategies, with their embedded practices for building teamwork

and deeper understanding of concepts, greater sense of classroom community and equity, along with and arts integration, will increase access to learning and make school more meaningful and enjoyable for all students.

Vertical Collaboration in STEAM – United Teachers of Pasadena

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

This grant will allow our school, [Sierra Madre Elementary](#), with a focus on the primary grades, to participate in a STEAM CCSS NGSS project based vertical collaboration learning experience. Our emphasis will be on Earth Space Sciences. It will be run by teachers, an outside astronomer, artist, and dance teacher, and community scientists. As a performing arts school, we have seen where weaving the arts into all subjects will make students feel more alive. We want to add the "A" to STEM and create STEAM for this project. The collaboration of teachers and outside professionals will create a curriculum that students across grade levels will teach each other. This experience will culminate in a school-wide, community-based Science Star Gazing Night. It will be rich with information about the planets, art, a Jet Propulsion Lab written play, and opportunities to look through telescopes at the evening stars.

Agriculture Science – Val Verde TA

Educator Grant- \$ 5,000

Having an agriculture science class gives [Lakeside Middle School](#) students the opportunity to become introduced to crop sustainability, learning about the environment, improving leadership and social skills and working together to accomplish a common goal.

Bio Garden Center – Victor Valley TA

Educator Grant- \$5,000

In an [Adelanto High School](#) biology classroom, life is discussed every day, but rarely do the students encounter actual living things in their study of life; this proposal changes that. Our proposal is to have students learn biology by working with living things throughout the year in cycles, as biology does. The focus will be a student maintained classroom garden center that gets set up the first week of school during the instruction of the scientific method. As the year progresses, the garden's cycle will begin. As we study each unit during the year we will focus it on building it around building the classroom garden project (since there are several classes there will be many layers going on at any one time for data collection (terraria, hydroponics, aquaponics, cloning, etc.). As we study genetics, students will be breeding fruit flies, which they will feed to goldfish. The goldfish will then be excreting urine into the water which goes to fertilizing the plants whose roots hang into the water taking in the nitrogen from the urine. The plants then when mature are starter plants for faculty gardens that we can sell to promote the ongoing nature of our cyclic project.

RBV Robotics – Vista TA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

The [Rancho Buena Vista High School](#) Robotics program will expand on the strengths of RBV's Beginning Robotics course creating more opportunities for students to be team members and team leaders in a variety of robotic and design competitions. Student surveys show that design challenges have ignited interest in engineering design in the classroom, and students have enjoyed learning to code through robotics. The grant will provide materials and robots have student run STEM clinics and robotic competitions in the classroom, school wide, and in local and regional community competitions, increasing teacher, community members, and parent involvement in student learning.

River Jim's Adventure Education – Willows Unified TA

Impact Grant- \$ 20,000

This proposal is for River Jim's Adventure Education Canoeing Experiences to include: Four [Willows Intermediate School](#) 6th grade class one-day canoe orientation and team-building experiences; Two 1-day canoe skills orientation and water safety days; Three 3-day canoe campout experiences for 7th and 8th graders; Three parent-student-teacher potluck orientation dinners. The parent-student-teacher potlucks would be for relationship development between parents and teachers, and to communicate what we will be doing on the canoeing field trips with their children. The overarching purpose of the canoe camping experiences is to connect students to their teachers and school in a fun and novel way.