Teacher Innovation Expo Targets Opportunities for Strength-Based, Student Centered Education

Please join the CTA Institute for Teaching as we proudly present some of the best of our 2015-16 class of IFT Grant Recipients at the Expo pre-conference before the CTA Good Teaching Conference-South on March 17th in Garden Grove. You will see nine exemplary teachers describe how their grant projects promoted strength-based teaching and created positive outcomes for their students and their school communities. You will be able to interact with other outstanding educators and be inspired by how CTA members’ voluntary dues contributions are being used in class-rooms and schools throughout our state. This event is created BY TEACHERS, FOR TEACHERS. We hope to see you there!

Among the grant projects being highlighted at the EXPO are: Follow Your Arrow (left), a middle school physical education program by Bridgette Kennedy and Phil Sanchez in Cathedral City; the Imperial Valley Discovery Zone (center), a cross-grade level STEM program in Imperial created by Daniel & Dennis Gibbs; and Delta Blooms-Cultivating Creativity (right), a student-run floral business started by Agriculture teacher Shannan Spears at River Delta High in Clarksburg. Shannan is pictured above with teachers and their flower arrangements at the Good Teaching Conference-North in San Jose on February 4, 2017.

Discover the seven strength-based factors in action in a variety of content areas and grade levels

Registration is Free!

Grant showcase! Networking!

Teacher-Inspired Presentations!

No vendors- but insights into the IFT Strength-Based Matrix, grant writing and the grant selection process, as well as 1:1 support on real-time grant applications.
IFT Grant Gives Sacramento-Area Continuation High School Students Growth Opportunities through Athletic Competition

It’s IFT grant application time!

All CTA members are eligible to apply for an Educator grant (up to $5,000) or an Impact grant (up to $20,000). The application deadline for 2017-18 grants is April 30th.

Since 2010, the CTA Institute for Teaching has been utilizing a portion of CTA members’ $20 voluntary dues contributions to fund strength-based teacher driven projects at schools all over California.

This is a competitive grant program and grants are evaluated by the IFT Grant Selection Committee, made up of five educators from around the state and an IFT staff consultant. These educators represent various grade levels and are experienced in the strength-based approach.

In the first seven years of the program, IFT received over 500 grant applications. The 214 funded grants represent an acceptance rate of more than 40%.

The IFT received an extremely positive report from CTA members in Sacramento County who are participating in one of this year’s highest-scoring grant projects. AAL Board members Chris Collins of Center Unified TA and Keira Kirby of Twin Rivers United Educators wrote:

“We are thrilled to report the successes accomplished thus far by the educators, coaches, and administrators in the Alternative Athletic League. The AAL is comprised of four alternative schools in the Sacramento/Auburn area: Chana HS, McClellan HS, Pacific HS, and Phoenix HS. These schools have set goals for their student athletes to support their vision for success both on the field and in the classroom.

October saw the fruition of a flag football season, culminating in a tournament at a state of the art venue where student-athletes demonstrated sportsmanship, grit, camaraderie, and a love of the game.

Students, who otherwise are denied the opportunity of participating in high school sports, were given timeless memories of yards gained, touchdowns made and prevented, and the thrill of competition.

Thank you IFT for supporting our mission to inspire greatness in our alternative education student-athletes. Through athletics, we are able to connect with adolescents and teach valuable life skills; namely respect and responsibility. Our students have an avenue to learn and grow thanks to your generosity and faith in our program.”

These teachers had a dream and a plan to carry it out. All they lacked were resources to bring their ideas into reality. Thanks to the generosity of CTA members, they were able to create a strength-based teacher driven project that helps demonstrate CTA’s commitment to promoting strength-based teaching and learning.