IFT Supporters Spend the Summer Months Building Strength-Based Connections with CTA Members

48 CTA Members Begin the New School Year with an IFT Grant

Thanks to the voluntary dues contributions by CTA members, the IFT Grant program begins its eighth year in 2017-18 with four dozen grant recipients. These CTA members will receive project money to support their strength-based grant proposals as part of a total awarded statewide of $586,529.

The 2017-18 grant class set several records: First, the 48 grants are the highest number ever awarded in a single year. Second, these grant recipients were selected from the largest-ever grant application pool of 132 proposals.

Grants are teacher-to-teacher, with no direct school district involvement. Local teachers associations serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the grant recipients.
Parent Teacher Home Visits: A Strength-Based Way to Enhance Family Engagement with our Schools

It’s time to get to know Parent Teacher Home Visits (PTHV), a national family engagement program that CTA’s Institute for Teaching has supported for the past 10 years. PTHV’s model of relational home visits supports both our members and our mission. It brings educators and families together in a strength-based relationship, as co-educators, for the benefit of the child. We invest our members’ dues in PTHV because they work to build stronger home-to-school partnerships that support students and transform schools.

The Institute for Teaching believes that public education can only be successful if it is student-centered, educator driven and based on the strengths of our students and their families. If our members and other school staff are not building relationships with the families that send their children into our classrooms every day, we miss out on an extraordinary opportunity to build support and trust in our schools. With the Local Control Funding Formula firmly in place, this is the right time for unions to be supporting work like this through their LCAP process. PTHV is a powerful and cost-effective means for accomplishing this critical goal.

Founded twenty years ago in Sacramento, CA, PTHV started as a collaboration among the Sacramento City TA, the Sacramento City USD, and Sacramento ACT, a community-based organizing group that was working closely with public school parents. With a presence now in 19 states, PTHV has continued to build new home visiting projects based on this same collaboration between teachers’ unions, school districts, and community partnerships.

We encourage you to learn more and to consider how a PTHV project can be initiated in your local community. PTHV currently has statewide hubs in MA, MN, CO, and CA, as well as a national office in Sacramento, CA. If you have any questions, please contact Gina Martinez-Keddy, PTHV executive director, at 562-481-6565 or gina@pthvp.org.

Parent Teacher Home Visits

- Parents and educators find that increased communication and contact helps create more meaningful relationships between the home and the school.
- Educators report greater job satisfaction and feelings of efficacy in their work.
- Home visits build a solid foundation on which so many other educational programs can thrive – when educators and families have a strong relationship, everything else works better.