On February 9th, close to one hundred students (from grades 7-12) and seven teachers (from five different schools) gathered at the Humboldt State University to learn about environmental justice, social justice, and issues of global significance using water as the lens.

This student-centered summit gave student teams a space to present their projects and research and learn from experts in the community. The 2018 Global Youth Summit was funded by a grant from the Institute for Teaching and was part of the 2018 Humboldt State University International Education Week.

Student presenters from Fortuna H.S., Northcoast Preparatory & Performing Arts Academy and Hoopa H.S. delivered a dozen presentations on some aspect of water.

While two students touched on water issues globally, most of the projects centered on local issues such as, the relationship between cannabis farming and water quality, water scarcity, plastic and its path to the ocean, building an underwater robot, refrigeration and its connection to usage and impact on the climate, and water treatment.

By extrapolating these issues to similar issues globally, the Humboldt students understood the magnitude and their connectedness to other places and people.

The keynote speaker was Lonny Grafman, an Instructor of Sustainable Design at Humboldt State University and the founder of the Practivistas summer abroad program.

Grant recipient, Tara Kajtaniak (below right), watches with pride as students present their research as part of the Global Youth Summit. Tara said her grant project was inspired by Bioregional’s “One Planet Living” framework.

Joining Tara is one of her fellow East Bay Teacher Think Tank members, Eric Enriquez (below left). Eric, who is also a member of the IFT Board of Directors, accompanied IFT & CTA staff for the grant visit.

For resources and links to more information, please go to: https://humboldtglobalyouthsummit.blogspot.com/
‘Tis the Season for Conferences and Grant Visits

Inspired Teachers Join Forces with IFT Staff to Promote Strength-Based Education

Springtime means connections with our members, whether one-on-one at their school sites or in a group at an IFT conference workshop. Regardless of the venue, the message is the same. Our Union is engaging members around teaching and learning and actively supporting their passion to improve student success. Since February, the Institute for Teaching has been able to speak with exemplary teachers at the CTA Good Teaching Conference, the CTA Instructional Leadership Corps’ Learnings from the Field and the CTA New Educator Weekend.

(Above left) Teachers from the Visalia TA joined with Tricia Hyun at the New Educator Weekend in Burlingame. Tricia and her Fullerton Elementary TA partner, Stella Kim are both members of the South Orange County Teacher Think Tank. They teamed up to provide training in technology for newer teachers. They inspired participants to embed rigorous reading and writing standards while reframing their entire classroom into a #StrengthBasedEdu zone by providing students with opportunities to identify their strengths, build their digital portfolios and share their voice with the world. Another North Orange County Think Tank member, Al Rabanera of Fullerton Secondary TO, provided training to participants on student-centered classrooms.

(Above right) Regina Bozeman, a member of Washington TA in West Sacramento, worked with her Southport Elementary students on her strength-based project - The Garden: Wiggly Worms to Yogurt. This grant provides the resources for all K-5 teachers to teach cross-curricular lessons related to, and in, their existing school garden. Grant funds ensure that resources and supplies will be readily available for each lesson in organized monthly bins. Additionally, the project helps to bring together parent volunteers, community partners, students, teachers, and local farmers.

A Timely Reminder: IFT Grant Applications Are Due by April 30th

Janese Swanson, a teacher at Torrey Hills School in San Diego County and a member of the Del Mar TA, has the distinction of being the first 2018-19 IFT grant applicant. She tweeted news of her completed application in early February.

Please consider joining Janese as a grant applicant and find out how the Institute for Teaching supports educators in their classrooms and school communities. Thanks to the voluntary dues contributions of CTA members, the IFT has been able to offer this competitive grant program since 2010.

During that time, more than 250 strength-based grants have been awarded to members, including 47 during the current school year. There are two types of grants: Educator grants up to $5,000 and Impact Grants up to $20,000. Consider applying and letting IFT help fund your dreams.