The decision by the CTA Board of Directors to combine IFT’s strength-based efforts with the work of CTA’s Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) Department has the potential to truly engage CTA members around the passions they feel for their work with students and the larger school community.

The new work of IFT & IPD will hopefully fulfill CTA’s long-term goal of “shifting the social narrative on education reform toward a student-centered agenda that fully incorporates the insights and expertise of education professionals.”

The work of the IPD’s Instructional Leadership Corps (ILC), as well as the arrival next month of six outstanding practitioners to the IFT Board of Directors (see their biographies on the next page) symbolizes CTA’s long-term goal of “recognizing all education professionals for the experts they are; for facilitating networks to develop professional capital within CTA; and acknowledging the importance of instructional leadership within the union…”

It’s grant application time and all CTA members are eligible to apply for an Educator grant (up to $5,000) or an Impact grant (up to $20,000) for the 2020-2021 school year. The application deadline is midnight PST on March 31, 2020.

This is a competitive grant program and grant applications 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.

A link to the on-line grant application is available under the Grants tab on the IFT website (www.teacherdrivenchange.org). The selection committee will meet in May and will use the seven-factor IFT Strength-Based Matrix as the lens to evaluate the grant proposals. Their grant recommendations will be presented to the IFT Board of Directors in June for formal approval. All grant checks will be mailed in late July/early August for use in the upcoming school year. The Local Association serves as the fiscal agent on behalf of the grant recipient. This increases accountability and ensures that the individual member incurs no tax liability.

The IFT considers it to be our union’s responsibility to invest in our profession. In the first ten years of this program, the IFT received over 900 grant applications. The 354 funded grants represent an acceptance rate of nearly 40%. We are proud that the IFT grant program has awarded over $4.1 million in grants to CTA members in the ten years since the program began.
The 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 ift@teacherdrivenchange.org

The Institute for Teaching welcomes our new members to the IFT Board of Directors

Region 1 - Jayson Chang
Eastside Teachers Assn.
Jayson is a fourth-year Social Studies teacher at San Jose's Santa Teresa High School. He is a union and social justice activist whose interests include thematic teaching as well as culturally relevant and strength-based pedagogy.

Region 2 - Shanan Spears
River Delta Unified Teachers Assn.
Shanan is a two-time grant recipient & 21-year veteran teacher who serves as the Agriculture Dept. Chair at Delta High School. She serves as a new teacher mentor and also runs the campus floral shop.

Region 2 - Daniel Frank
Rocklin Teachers Professional Assn.
Dan has spent 16 years teaching manufacturing and engineering technologies at Rocklin H.S. During that time he has received many different grants, including two from the IFT. He is also a part-time computer instructor for UC Davis.

Region 3 - Jennifer Villaryo
United Teacher Los Angeles
Jennifer is currently a Salary Point Adviser for LAUSD. Prior to this job assisting teachers, she taught for 15 years at Grand View Elementary School. In addition, for the past 3 years she has also taught Adult Education in the Santa Monica-Malibu School District.

Region 3 - Jayson Chang
Eastside Teachers Assn.

Region 4 - Al Rabanera
Fullerton Secondary Teachers Org.
Al is a Mathematics Teacher at La Vista Continuation High School in Fullerton. He has taught for 16 years and currently serves as a member of CTA’s Instructional Leadership Corps and as a facilitator of one of the IFT’s regional Teacher Think Tanks.

Region 4 - Alejandro Cisneros
Alvord Educators Assn.
As a seventh-year educator in Alvord, Alejandro currently teaches Computer Science, AVID & English Language Development at Loma Vista M.S. He is also a doctoral student studying educational leadership and is passionate about educational equity.