

CTA Institute for Teaching

CTA Board Report
May 2016

Nearly 100 CTA Members Propose Grant Projects for 2016-17 Grant Selection Committee Meets in May to Review Applications

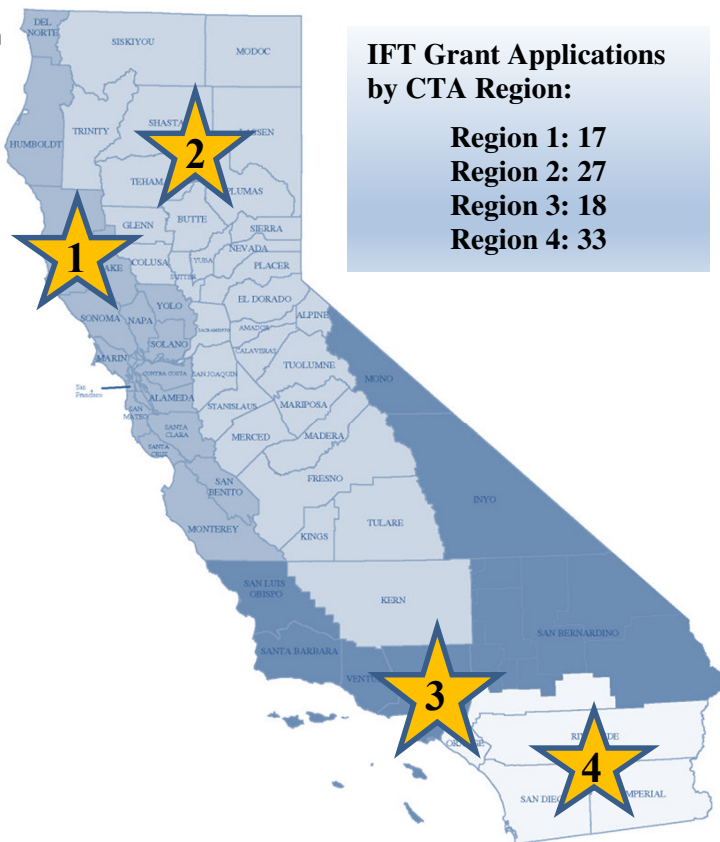
The CTA Institute for Teaching’s Grant Program supports our members’ insights, creativity and passions. As we begin the seventh year of grant funding, IFT salutes all of our previous 125 grant recipients.

We also commend the dozens of members who took a chance by submitting an application for this competitive program for 2016-17. Their requests total over \$1.3 million.

The IFT Grant Selection Committee will meet to evaluate the applications on May 20-21, 2016 in Sacramento. Despite a healthy grant budget of nearly \$600,000, not all applicants will be selected.

IFT thanks our committee members, **Barry Wissman** (an Elementary teacher from Palm Springs), **Carlos Solis** (a Middle School teacher from Ontario-Montclair), **Beth Micari** (a Continuation High School teacher from Exeter) and **Sarah Morgan** (a High School Librarian from Moraga).

They are joined in their work by **Liane Cismowski** of the IFT Board of Directors (Principal of Mt. Diablo High School) and **Anita Benitas** (IFT Program Consultant). Their recommendations will be approved by the IFT Board of Directors in June.



Exploring Teacher Leadership: An Invitation to Discover Strengths



The one-day event is sponsored by CTA, the Institute for Teaching and the San Diego County Office of Education. This will be a great opportunity to meet and connect with other accomplished educators and to move the profession forward. Attendees will be able to examine opportunities for advocacy, instruction and change, as well as build their own professional learning network.

All Southern California educators are invited to attend a special one-day **Exploring Teacher Leadership** event. It will take place at the Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Rd., San Diego from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, 2016.

The day will begin with a kickoff keynote address by Haydee Rodriguez, a nationally board certified teacher and member of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Breakout session will focus four areas: **Association Leadership, Policy & Advocacy Leadership, Instructional Leadership and Leadership in Technology.**

This opportunity to engage in professional dialogue about leadership mirrors a similar gathering held at Stanford University on May 14th.

Palm Springs Grant Recipients Hit a Bullseye on Behalf of their Middle School's Physical Education Students



Two CTA members from James Workman Middle School in Cathedral City in Riverside County are literally transforming their school's approach to physical education. And, they are using the resources provided by IFT's member-supported grant program to do so.

Over the past five years, Physical Education teachers Bridgette Kennedy and Phil Sanchez have created an entirely new P.E. option for the 1,600 students enrolled there. It's called the **Adventure Program** and its expansion has been supported by funds from both the Palm Springs Unified School District and the IFT. Bridgette also received an outdoor education-related IFT grant in 2014-15.

This year, using their Impact Grant, Bridgette and Phil took a major step by developing an archery program that teaches the sport's fundamentals, as well as biomechanics and mental focus. Each school day, approximately 225 seventh and eighth-graders get their hands on a bow and arrow as part of their P.E. class.

Bridgette, who refers to herself as an "adventure educator," said that she had to overcome initial resistance from the school administration, but that they are fully supportive now. Not only has archery been integrated into the P.E. curriculum, but it also is offered as an after-school program three times a week.

Another positive recent development occurred when the teachers found out that the new Principal of Rancho Mirage High School, Dr. Ken Wagner, is also the President of the nearby Cherry Valley Archery Club. Now in the works are plans to create competitive archery programs at both the middle and high school.

While Phil and Bridgette are grateful for the support that they have received from CTA members' dues, it is clear after a recent grant visit that is their tenacity and commitment to their students that has brought about these changes that offer their students another way to develop their strengths and talents.



15-Year veteran Phil Sanchez and 17-year veteran Bridgette Kennedy (right) are the energetic duo behind Workman Middle School's alternative to traditional P.E.

According to Phil, their work has created opportunities for "kids that aren't always successful in traditional sports."

Pictured (above left) is a P.E. class that is engaged in the archery program. Safety is stressed. In fact, there is a 10-point checklist to safely use the bow and arrow. Releasing the arrow is item #9.

Carla, one of the student P.E. aides is pictured (below left) waxing the arrow strings. The bow and arrow holder was also built by students.



The CTA 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 contact@teacherdrivenchange.org