



Finding Sponsors for Your Spelling Bee Team

Each team is asked to raise an entry fee of a **minimum** of \$400. But don't stop there! There will be a prize for the team that raises the most money in sponsorships!

Where do we start?

- Look to the businesses that you deal with, e.g., your hairdresser, auto repair shop, dentist, veterinarian, jeweler, restaurant, or doctor.
- Contact friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Tell them how their support helps enhance the education of all Ithaca City School District students
- Use email, Facebook, and Twitter to spread the same message.
- Use the GiveGab website to register your team, and also to fundraise for your team fee online!
- Download a Spelling Bee poster from www.ipei.org, display it in your workplace, and share it with others.

Where does the money go?

Each spelling team's entry fee goes directly to support IPEI grants for teachers. This is possible because our event sponsors cover all the expenses of the Bee. **Please thank** our Blue Ribbon Sponsor, Chemung Canal Trust Company, our Red Ribbon Sponsor, Wells Fargo Financial Advisors, and our Gold Ribbon Sponsors, Sciarabba Walker & Co. and Cayuga Radio Group (also our Media Sponsor).

Be sure to tell sponsors that their gift to IPEI is tax deductible.

Did you know...

In **2014-15**, the 17th annual Adult Spelling Bee raised over \$26,000. IPEI awarded 82 grants, totaling over \$93,000, benefiting teachers and students at all grade levels in the Ithaca City School District.

According to data collected from teachers and others who received grants during the years 2012-2015, IPEI grants strongly impact students' engagement in learning.

Why are grants for teachers important?

Funds raised by the Spelling Bee will help more teachers **Spark Student Learning** by bringing their innovative ideas to the classroom, connecting school and community.

Last year in classrooms throughout the Ithaca City School District, students were inspired by remarkable learning opportunities made possible by IPEI grants:

The "Phun with Physics" Teacher Grant partnered Fall Creek Elementary School with Xraise (Cornell's Laboratory for Accelerator-Based Science and Education) and the Physics Bus (Ithaca's traveling physics classroom). Students in two first-grade classes took trips to Cornell's Wilson Lab to experiment with electricity, light, sound waves and magnetism, and to watch scientists work in the underground accelerator tunnel.

"Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse: A Study of Pandemics & Geography" was funded by a grant to Boynton Middle School teachers Vinnie Alcazaren and Keith Harrington. Their sixth-grade students incorporated popular culture (e.g. zombies) into class work. "It's a huge plus when you get a great amount of enthusiasm and engagement while also teaching students to critically analyze a topic!" noted Alcazaren.

Ithaca High School art students experienced "Improvisation and Process in Sculpture" with local artist Ann Reichlin. Given limited supplies of only tape, newspaper and wire, they were encouraged to create a standing 4-foot structure. "Inspired by Ann's work, students created individual sculptures where only size and material parameters were given. Work evolved into amazing architectural and organic forms," said teacher Jackie Richardson.