

IPEI Annual Spelling Bee Makes a Huge Buzz!

The Fine Arts “Word” Boosters; Ellie Hobbie, Anne Hobbes and Linda Loomis; correctly spelled “bezoar” to win the IPEI Adult Spelling Bee on Sunday, March 3, and have their name engraved on the Fuzzy Bee Trophy. They advanced to the championship words by winning one of four preliminary rounds along with The Discovery Trail, We Spell Krazy Good, and Two Engineers and a German. At the start there were 24 teams sponsored by numerous businesses, organizations, and individuals.

This year’s Spelling Bee was the 15th organized by IPEI to raise funds for its Teacher Grants program. With the support of Chemung Canal Trust Company, the Blue Ribbon Champion Sponsor, and Wells Fargo Financial Advisors and Cat’s Pajamas, the Red and Gold Ribbon Finalist Sponsors; and the donations of refreshments, prizes,

media, audio and graphics services; approximately \$16,000 was raised this year.

In celebration of 15 bees, IPEI presented certificates to everyone who has been involved in five or more bees. Over 70 spellers, sponsors and volunteers have been loyal participants. Since it was the first Bee for some, they were encouraged to return again for this fun fundraiser by Jennifer Engel, IPEI vice president and one of the Bee founders. She said, “We appreciate everyone who has ever participated whether for one year or for fifteen, but today wanted to recognize the very loyal multi-year Bee sponsors and spellers who have shown their long term commitment to IPEI’s mission.”

IPEI is a community based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that develops supportive community and private sector relationships with the Ithaca City School District. For more information, see www.ipei.org.

