



We Spell Crazy Good (WSKG) Wins IPEI's 16th Annual Adult Spelling Bee



After four preliminary rounds with seven teams in each, four finalist teams advanced to the championship round at the IPEI 16th Annual Adult Spelling Bee. After 84 words were spelled correctly in front of a crowd of 250 community members of all ages, two teams remained. The Ithaca City School District (ICSD) Board of Education team (Board of Ed Buzz) sparred with the WSKG broadcasters (We Spell Crazy Good) through four more challenging words before a winner could be determined. WSKG correctly spelled "passementerie" which is an ornamental edging or trimming made of braid, cord, gimp, beading, or metallic thread. The other finalist teams were staff and parents from ICSD elementary schools: BJM Spell Casters and Takin' Care of Business from Fall Creek.

The Bee raised over \$25,000 to support IPEI's grants for teachers. Held in the Ithaca High School Wellness Center Gym, there was no admission charge for the annual family-friendly event that featured 28 spelling teams of three adults each competing for the championship Fuzzy Bee trophy. Funds were raised through event sponsorships, team sponsorships, program advertisements, pledges based on correctly spelled words, and a silent auction.

Chemung Canal Trust Company, the Blue Ribbon Champion Sponsor for the fourth year, was joined by Red Ribbon Finalist Sponsor Wells Fargo Financial Advisors and two Gold Ribbon Runner Up Sponsors, Cayuga Radio Group and Sciarabba Walker & Co. Their corporate support covers all event expenses so that team sponsorships and other event income

directly supports grants for teachers. West Hill Graphics and Calf Audio are also key event partners.

This popular community event is run like an official spelling bee, with rules, a pronouncer, MCs, a timekeeper, and three judges. David Feldshuh pronounced the words while timekeeper Geoff Dunn alerted spellers when their time to consider the correct spelling expired. Judges included IPEI founder Ralph Jones as well as Paulette Manos and Deborah Lynn. Bee MCs were Greg Bostwick and George Preston.

IPEI is a not-for-profit organization that connects the ICSD and the community through collaboration, engagement, gifts and grants. For more information, see www.ipei.org or contact 256-IPEI (4734) or [REDACTED]

