

Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) Announces \$100,000 Available in Grants

Public Invited to 15th Anniversary Celebration Wednesday, October 5

In addition to electing members and officers at the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) Board's annual meeting on September 19, this year's budget was approved with increased funds to be allocated through its grant programs. President Terry Byrnes, who was re-elected at the meeting, explained that "IPEI believes the education of every student in the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) is enhanced through community connections and support that we facilitate for students and teachers through engagement, collaboration, gifts and grants."

During the 2011-12 school year, IPEI will award up to \$50,000 in Teacher Grants, \$40,000 in Red & Gold Grants, and \$10,000 in Community Collaboration Grants. New grant applications and procedures are being instituted; all deadlines and forms are accessible at www.ipei.org. IPEI's budget also includes funds for *Kids Discover the Trail!*; for use by its affiliates, the Fine Arts Booster Group and Code Red Robotics Team; and for awards and grants from its Special Funds.

IPEI is celebrating its 15th anniversary with a free, fun and family-friendly event on Wednesday, Oct. 5 starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Ithaca High School Performing Arts Center. "Fifteen & Forward" is open to the public and will feature a multi-media presentation at 6:00 p.m. about IPEI's past, present and future in Kulp Auditorium and remarks by teachers and IPEI's collaborators. There will be refreshments, party favors, and displays about IPEI funded activities; one attendee will be selected to receive a new iPad!

IPEI was created by a group of local citizens including business people, parents and educators saw the need for more community connections and private relationships in support of the ICSD. Byrnes stated that "IPEI continues to grow in its impact as it strives to enhance the education of every student while providing grants and other assistance to their teachers. Since 1996, 1000 grants totaling \$1,000,000 have been awarded due to the generous support of individuals and organizations who have made donations or have partnered with IPEI."

In addition to Byrnes continuing as IPEI's president, Jennifer Engel was re-elected as vice president, Deborah O'Connor as secretary, and Susan Piliro as treasurer. David Lee and Pat Tempesta were re-elected for board terms; they are joined by two new board members, Judy Stewart and Martha Frommelt. IPEI also announced the hiring of its first part-time staff member; Julie Langenbacher is the administrative and program associate. IPEI welcomed new liaisons: Tina Mollenkamp for the Fine Arts Booster Group and Patricia Musa for Code Red Robotics.

Stewart is serving on the IPEI Adult Spelling Bee Committee. She is leading the effort to recruit spellers and sponsors for the 13th annual bee scheduled for Sunday, November 13th at 2:00 p.m. at Ithaca High School's recently renovated Bliss Gym.

IPEI is on Facebook and Twitter due to the volunteer efforts of three Cornell Commitment students, Jessica Zapas, McKenzie Huston and Chyanne Eyde.

For more information, visit www.ipei.org or contact ipei@ipei.org or 256-4734 (IPEI).