

**First Grant Announced from the Phyllis B. Brodhead Library Media Technology Fund of the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI)**



**Figure 1 Ithaca High Librarian Nan Bell describes the flip cameras now being used at four schools thanks for funding from the Phyllis B. Brodhead Library Media Technology Fund.**



**Figure 2 CHES Librarian Joe Sherrill demonstrates a flip camera for Chuck Brodhead and friends.**

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The Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) is pleased to announce the first grant from the Phyllis B. Brodhead Library Media Technology Fund. The \$1000 annual grant was used to purchase flip video cameras and memory cards for Beverly J. Martin, Enfield, and Cayuga Heights Elementary Schools; and for Boynton Middle School. The fund was established by Charles Brodhead and many of his late wife Phyllis' family and friends to honor her life, spirit and memory.

On June 2, Ithaca City School District (ICSD) current and retired librarians and teachers were joined by Brodhead and members of the community at a reception in the Boynton Middle School Library where Phyllis worked for over 30 years. Principal Jason Trumble welcomed those gathered to the "heart and soul" of Boynton where he often thinks about "WWPD—What Would Phyllis Do" to positively impact the education of the students in grades 6-8 and to support the teaching staff.

IPEI Vice President Jennifer Engel expressed that IPEI "is pleased and proud to manage the fund and to help allocated the grants to ICSD libraries. The items purchased this first year are top-notch representing technology Phyllis would have loved." She introduced Nan Bell, Ithaca High School librarian and district library media center chair, who described the flip video cameras and their use in the four schools. "We are very thankful for the funding to purchase these units that are easy-to-use and multi-platform."

Bell and other ICSD librarians demonstrated the cameras and discussed examples of their usefulness for classroom teachers working with the curriculum standards, during field trips such as *Kids Discover the Trail!*, and related to extra-curricular activities including fine and performing arts performances. They described how little training teachers need before use, and that students need even less to use them successfully.

According to Bell, the "curricular impact includes that students learn filming technique as a medium for creative expression including how to post and share with others. Students will learn planning, sequencing, narrative, and logic skills." Cameras can also be used by librarians and teachers to film student productions and guest speakers. "Media literacy and equity are addressed by the addition of this technology at four schools."

Ann Caren, retired ICSD teacher and member of the IPEI board, worked with the librarians as they selected the cameras to purchase. "I observed the librarians collaborating across the schools and deciding together as a group how to use the first Brodhead Library Media Technology grant."

Chuck Brodhead expressed his thanks to "IPEI and everyone who has made a gift to the endowment fund that will allow grants to be made every year to support technology purchases for ICSD libraries."

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](http://www.ipei.org).