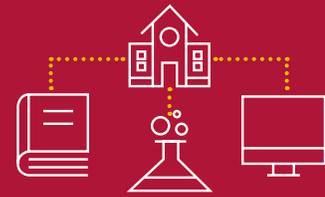




Ithaca Public Education Initiative



Connecting School and Community

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*IPEI believes the education of every student in the ICSD is enhanced through community connections and support that IPEI facilitates for students and teachers through engagement, collaboration, gifts, and grants*



Save the Date!

**Spelling Bee 2017**  
Sunday, March 5

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# Transitions

## Executive Director Stepping Down



Christine A. Sanchirico, IPEI's first Executive Director, has announced her intention to step down this summer. According to Board President Matthew Braun, "With retirement on her horizon, Chris has given IPEI the opportunity to search for her successor so there can be sufficient overlap for transition."

"I have enjoyed my time at IPEI and am proud of what the board and I have been able to accomplish during my tenure. Together, we've developed a solid infrastructure to ensure IPEI's impact will continue with success far into the future," expressed Sanchirico.

Terry Byrnes who was IPEI's president when Chris was hired in 2013 remarked: "Chris has provided strong leadership during a transformative time. She has guided the strengthening of operations, the establishment of policies and procedures, and the shift from a volunteer-led organization to a staffed one."

"Chris has shared her many years of varied work experience and IPEI has greatly benefitted," said Jennifer Engel, IPEI's immediate past president. "I have seen her love and enthusiasm for the core of IPEI's mission grow into deep belief in the benefits of what is being accomplished."



*IPEI Board and Committee members gathered to thank Julie Langenbacher for her outstanding service to IPEI as she moves on to become the Events Coordinator at Hospicare. Julie came to IPEI first as a PTA leader who joined the Spelling Bee*

*Committee, and then as a Board member and PR Committee member. In 2011, she left the Board to become our part-time administrative and program support employee. Vice President David Lee acknowledged her creativity and her strong work supporting IPEI's volunteers, grant recipients, and Executive Director Chris Sanchirico. Many thanks, Julie!*

## Grant Honors Founder

West African Drum and Dance grant has been named in honor of Jennifer Engel who has been involved since IPEI's founding 20 years ago. She served on the Task Force in 1994 that grew out of the ICSD Strategic Plan action item to increase community connections with the schools. Jennifer became one of the first IPEI Board members when it began in 1996, and was Vice President for most of those years until serving as President in 2014-15. She was particularly influential in the Adult Spelling Bee and Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca. She chaired the Executive Committee meetings for many years and served as School Liaison with BJ Martin Elementary School. A downtown business owner and parent of several ICSD alumni, she has been an individual donor and a business sponsor of IPEI, and was a tri-chair of IPEI's first capital campaign.



# New Generation of Generous Supporters



As the Ithaca Public Education Initiative turns 20 this year, there's a new generation of supporters interested in its mission and impact! Why are more young adults contributing to IPEI?

Some are the children of IPEI leaders, others are ICSD alumni who benefited from grants their teachers received, and others are inspired to "give back" to their community.

"As someone who completed all grades in the Ithaca City School District, I can speak first hand how the system and my educators helped prepare me for success in college and as I've grown in the work force," said Jack Young, I.H.S. '02. "I truly believe in and am proud to help support programs like IPEI and the great work that they do in Ithaca."

Young also remarked, "Everyone who grows up in Ithaca should have access to the same type of educational preparation that I received. It's the hard work of those involved with IPEI and those who donate both time and money that help provide this continued level of quality that otherwise might not be offered."

Andrew Byrnes, I.H.S. '01, expressed, "I am constantly impressed by the accomplishments of students in Ithaca such as Code Red Robotics. I now work in engineering and technology so I know how great this opportunity is for those kids."

He elaborated, "I remember the field trips, teachers, and extra-curriculars that helped shape my learning

experiences and influenced who I've become. I'm happy to support these programs for future generations by donating to IPEI."

Kate Hinchcliff, I.H.S. '04, annually donates to the Ian Alberta memorial fund. "It's my way of honoring his memory and letting his family know that even though I'm not in Ithaca anymore, I am thinking about him and them. It feels important to donate to something that I know brought Ian joy." The fund supports Kids Discover the Trail! fifth grade programming at Cayuga Nature Center.

For several years, IPEI had received donations from the annual Victory Club philanthropic social event of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity at Cornell. "The members love Ithaca and are eager to pay back some to the debt they feel they owe the greater community," according to Howie Schaffer, alumni president. "Fraternities and sororities are uniquely positioned to leverage their fundraising toward investments in important civic causes and organizations."

Schaffer explained that Victory Club organizers have found great satisfaction in supporting IPEI's mission: "In the last ten years, Alpha Delt has donated more than \$20,000 to IPEI.

Founded as a literary society in 1869, Alpha Delta's focus has been on cultivating learning and enhancing leadership and personal responsibility through the exchange of transformative and life-changing ideas. Being able to extend the reach of that vision into the community is a responsibility and a privilege."



Clockwise from top right: Victory Club Chair with the Pattersons and Joyce Putnam; Alex Lee '04; Andrew Byrnes '01 with his family; Jack Young '02

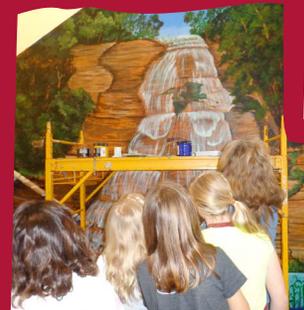
## Grants and Programs



Fine Arts Boosters: Mary Poppins at IHS



Ithaca STEM: Code Red Robotics



Teacher Grant: Ithaca is Gorges



KDT! at the Sciencenter



*“The Drum and Dance grant with Sulley and Ayisha couldn’t have happened without IPEI. Because of this grant, hundreds of students across the district were given a new perspective on the world. I am incredibly grateful for the work we did and the support IPEI offered.”*

# West African Drum and Dance Experiences with Sulley Imoro

*IPEI Helps Increase Student Engagement with Connecting Classrooms Grants*

**S**tudents and teachers across the ICSD learned about West African culture, history, music and life through Sulley Imoro’s workshops funded with a Connecting Classrooms Grant. Jonathan Keefner, music teacher at Enfield Elementary School, was the lead teacher for the programming in eight schools reaching over 800 students.

Keefner explained, “The series was designed to give as many students in the district as possible the opportunity to interactively learn about traditional Ghanaian drum and dance practices, and the cultural context of the material, rich historical information on each dance, and how music and rhythm plays a part in daily life in Ghana.” Collaborating teachers are gaining the necessary resources and understanding to include an African drum and dance unit in their curriculum beyond this year in their “world music” section of the arts curriculum.

IPEI’s Connecting Classrooms Grants build on the not-for-profit organization’s successful models for encouraging and supporting innovative teaching and deeper learning. “Our intent is to be the catalyst for ICSD staff to seek and develop innovative collaborative partnerships between teachers within a school, across grade levels and/or between schools,” according to Connie Patterson, retired ICSD teacher who is now an IPEI board member and the Grants Committee chair.

IPEI Connecting Classrooms Grant recipients receive funding to plan, develop, and implement their visions that are aligned with the grant criteria: internal collaboration among ICSD staff; identification of overall promise or potential of project aligned with school and district goals; plan encourages active learning and student engagement; realistic, thoughtful outline of process; proposed budget aligns with project goals and intended outcomes; potential for academic impact; and process for effective evaluation of the project.

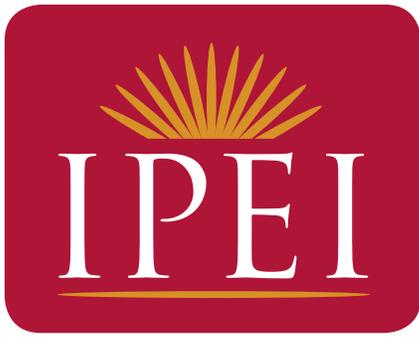
“IPEI is pleased and excited to support these fantastic proposals that find new ways to get students actively involved in learning and discovery. Each project is created by a group of educators who have chosen to focus on scientific content while incorporating language arts, math, and technology. We are impressed with the teachers’ vision and commitment!” said Patterson.



*Spelling Bee*



*“It was great seeing our studies come together, the power of interdisciplinary learning, having experts teach and learn with students while in the field.”*



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### Ways to Participate with IPEI

IPEI is seeking community members interested in volunteering for committees or the board. Volunteers do not need to have children currently enrolled in the ICSD. See the website listing of opportunities (ipei.org under How You Can Help) or contact IPEI.

“A good public education is at the core of a healthy and vibrant community. IPEI supports and enhances education for all students in the ICSD. Being an IPEI volunteer enables you to be a part of this fun and challenging task,” said former IPEI Board and Committee member Martha Frommelt.

### Thank Terrific Teachers and Staff!



IPEI encourages parents and others to show appreciation for their students’ teachers and school staff. This spring’s effort began with IPEI’s Giving is Gorges campaign to “Thank Terrific Teachers” and continues.

For 20 years, IPEI has recognized the key role that ICSD teachers and staff play by empowering them with grants so they can innovate while connecting school and community. These connections have been shown to enhance education for all students and to increase student engagement.

At the end of the school year or at graduation, a gift to IPEI is a special way to say thank you. It’s as easy as indicating on an IPEI gift form envelope or online that you wish to make a gift “in honor of”. Staff retirements are also excellent times for such tributes. Gifts can be designated for “wherever the need is greatest”; or to the Senior Class Gift Fund; or to IPEI grants, programs or affiliates. A message will be sent to the staff member(s) recognized by your gift(s)!

## IPEI Connecting School & Community

I / we pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You may designate your gift to one or more IPEI Programs:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Wherever the need is greatest
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Grants
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Kids Discover the Trail!*
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fine Arts Booster Group
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IthacaSTEM Advocates
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IHS Class of 2016

NAME(S) (AS YOU WISH TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT)

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE EMAIL

- Check if you wish to remain anonymous.
- Monthly gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- My employer \_\_\_\_\_ will match my gift.
- Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Mastercard  Visa Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD SIGNATURE

**Please make checks payable to IPEI. Gifts to IPEI are tax deductible.**