

# Adult spellers convene for IPEI Spelling Bee

STAFF REPORT 1:31 p.m. EST February 26, 2015



(Photo: FILE PHOTO)

Over two dozen teams of spelling enthusiasts will convene for the 17th annual Ithaca Public Education Initiative Adult Spelling Bee at 2 p.m. Sunday at Ithaca High School's Wellness Center Gym.

Twenty-eight teams of three adults each will compete for the "Fuzzy Bee" championship trophy and raise funds for grants for teachers in the district.

Last year, the spelling bee raised \$25,000 and the Ithaca Public Education Initiative awarded more than \$75,000 in grants to the Ithaca City School District. The public is encouraged to attend as audience members.

A silent auction featuring 40 items will be held during the event. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. to allow time for

review of the auction items. Teams are continuing to raise money with online donations made through [ipei.peaksmaker.com](http://www.ipei.peaksmaker.com) (<http://www.ipei.peaksmaker.com/>).

The event is run like an official spelling bee with rules, a "pronouncer," host, timekeeper, and three judges. Judges include IPEI founder Ralph Jones, Paulette Manos and Deborah Lynn. This year's host will be Jean McPheeters, former president of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce.

Funds are raised through event sponsorships, team sponsorships, program advertisements, pledges based on correctly spelled words, and a silent auction.

Last year's winner was the public radio stations WSKG's team "We Spell Krazy Good" with the word "passementerie," an ornamental edging or trimming made of braid, cord, gimp, beading, or metallic thread.

For more information, visit [ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org) (<http://www.ipei.org>). Results will be posted on the website Monday.

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