

**Programs and Partnerships  
Niswonger Foundation Board Update  
Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

**Partnership Updates**

**Literacy Initiative Focused on Effectiveness (LIFE)**

*Greene County*

- Visitors from Roosevelt Elementary, Kingsport City Schools, came to Glenwood Elementary on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. We provided a site visit to explain early learning groups, extended planning, and how the LIFE initiative fits with the State's efforts with *Read to Be Ready*.
- Year 3 satisfaction survey data from the LIFE initiative showed the following:
  - ELG success- 96%
  - Extended planning usefulness- 90%
  - Instructional Assistant Value- 95%
  - Community Involvement- 77%
  - Both Instructional Assistant Value and Extended Planning Usefulness increased from the Year 1 survey.
- I-Ready Data from Fall to Winter showed positive gains. These will be reported in more specific terms with a three-year data report.
- The end of grant summary report is being designed to highlight different phases of the project.

*Hancock County*

- The first-year satisfaction survey has been completed and is currently being tabulated. \* PBL current activities:
- Second grade students interviewed local businesses to learn about their community while improving literacy skills. Students assisted the businesses by creating advertisements that were placed in backpacks and used throughout the community.
- Fourth and Fifth grade students are creating a cookbook featuring family and community recipes. This will be marketed to the community.
- The literacy themed *Christmas Gala* was attended by over 450 individuals from the community. Each class focused on a specific book. The students received a personal copy of that book from the Niswonger Foundation.
- A grant has been received to provide a three-week Kinderkamp in July 2019.

**Rural LIFE (EIR)**

- The implementation of the treatment schools' customized school plans is well underway.
- The nine Rural LIFE instructional coaches are supporting the implementation and refining of the plans.

- Revisions of the initial plans are beginning—based on a better knowledge, new learnings, and the availability of another round of financial support (\$200K).
- We have an important principal meeting scheduled at the end of February; the meeting is designed to help principals improve as an effective instructional leader and to increase their understanding of the project.
- The amount of networking between the project schools is increasing; we are facilitating faculty visits to other schools and online discussions between schools.
- We are planning professional development events for Summer 2019, with special-interest topics for teachers (and other staff) representing the treatment schools. These events are designed to help schools/teachers learn from each other.
- Our program analyst, from the U.S. Dept. of Education, conducted a site visit in December. Yianni Alephoritis visited several schools and attended our Dec. 14 meeting with our lead teachers.
- Our independent evaluators (from AnLar) visited during December and are visiting schools the week of Feb. 11-15.

### **Niswonger Online**

- Niswonger Online spring semester opened on Jan 16th.
- **Current enrollment is 641.** Our most utilized courses this semester are World Languages (French, Spanish and Latin), Social Studies, and AP (six AP courses being offered)
- Cocke County, McMinn County, and Haywood County school systems are now using our World Languages for most of their students.
- Jefferson County is still using Latin I and II for all their Latin students.
- Our new learning management system (LMS) Canvas, is running smoothly. Teachers and students are thrilled with the update and its ease of use.
- The old website nflonline.com is being retired. All online information and login is now on **niswongeronline.com**
- Niswongeronline.com is also continuously being updated to reflect changes in the schools we work with, our course catalog, and program partnerships.
- In response to the need for career-technical courses, more electives will be offered by fall 2019 including Visual Arts 3 - Photography, General Music 1.
- Course updates for 2019/ 2020- Cosmetology 1, Computer Applications, Accounting I & II, Spanish I & II.

### **NiswongerCARE Online Affiliates**

- McMinn County is our newest CARE affiliate member. This spring 130 students enrolled from McMinn County High and Central High taking world language courses or Sociology.
- McMinn County will be our last recipient of the NiswongerCARE Online grant funds.
- Possible new systems for Fall 2019 include Dyersburg City, Tipton County, Meigs County and Campbell County.

- Lauderdale, Hardeman, Haywood, and Claiborne Counties still have strong enrollment even though they have begun partial payment \$75/seat. Collectively they have around 150 students enrolled.

### **8th Grade Enrichment**

- By encouraging our high achieving 8th graders during their final year in middle school, we can better prepare them for high school and the rigorous courses (both in-class and online) that they will encounter.
  - Gina is currently working with our EIR Literacy Coaches to share this information and keep eighth grade enrollment increasing.
  - This year we will have approximately 120 eighth graders earning high school credit in a wide-range of NiswongerOnline courses. That is more than double the 2017-18 eighth grade enrollment.

### **ETSU Dual Enrollment Partnership**

- Our partnership with ETSU is off to a strong start with 162 enrollments. We will be meeting with ETSU in early February to compare rosters for an exact count.
- While most of the first semester enrollment is from our Consortium Schools, we also had students from an affiliate system in western TN, Lauderdale County.
- Niswongeronline.com has been updated to share information about this partnership. An informational PowerPoint has been uploaded, and a list of current online dual enrollment courses is included. Counselors are directing students and parents to the website for information.

### **NiswongerCARE College and Career Advising**

#### *TN Promise/FAFSA*

Tennessee Promise requires that students meet a February 1, 2019 deadline for submitting the FAFSA in order to remain eligible for this scholarship. With a total of 6,300 seniors to assist, Advisors faced a big challenge. They worked long days and evenings to accommodate the schedules of both students and parents. While most students needed help in completing this complicated and confusing document, the most difficult challenge is engaging parents who were reluctant to provide information about their finances. The data points outlined below reflect how the Advisors hard work and perseverance yielded outstanding results.

- Over 54 FAFSA Frenzy events were held with over 460 parents attending.
- Individual appointments were held with 4,112 students.
- Based on data through Jan. 11, 2019, 4,025 (63%) of seniors have submitted a FAFSA.
- The goal by the end of school year 2018-2019 is for 90% of all seniors to have submitted a FAFSA.

#### *Training/Professional Development*

- Monthly staff meetings were held in November, December, and January to provide information, professional and personal development, and collaborative work sessions designed to share best practices. The sessions offered included Mr.

- Louie Gump's presentation on "Nifty Nuggets about Leadership;" a training on the financial aid verification process by Ms. Michala Worthington, Walters State Community College; a webinar on "Supporting and Engaging Generation Z Students;" and a session on mitigating the summer melt phenomenon.
- Anita Kilbourne-Greer, Associate Director and Nellie Greer, Lead Advisor participated in the US Department of Education's FSA Partner Summit held in Atlanta, Georgia to provide input regarding the challenges for students in completing the FAFSA submission process.

### **CareerConnect**

- Spring meetings with all class levels are in full swing at the five high schools.
- Planning for the two Summer Camp Experience has begun.
- Selection for Class of 2022 began last week.
- Efforts are in place to expand internship opportunities.
- There is serious interest from both Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol Virginia, as well as Kingsport, about expansion of program to these areas.

### *WE Track*

- There is growing interest from state level groups regarding purchasing the WE Track site to assist with state-wide expansion of the Work Ethic Diploma effort.

### **Grant Activity**

- The U.S. Department of Education has issued the RFP for the next round of EIR grants. We are analyzing the RFP and determining interest.
- *Building Stronger Brains Tennessee* is a grant that could provide support for Trauma Informed Care training for our region's educator. We are considering the possibilities for submitting a proposal.

### **Boards, Committees and Activities**

- The Annual Young Peoples' Concert, with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra was held on Tuesday, November 20. The Niswonger Performing Arts Center was at full capacity for two performances.
- Nancy attended the annual meeting of the Governor's Books from Birth board and advisory committee. The meeting was hosted by Governor and Mrs. Haslam and, then, Governor Elect and Mrs. Lee.
- Nancy attended the SCORE Steering Committee meeting on December 4, in Nashville.
- Scott and Nancy met with Governor Elect Lee on January 11 to discuss a request for support for the college and career advising program.
- Nancy attended the quarterly meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education Committee on January 25, in Nashville.
- Nancy participated in the Tennesseans for Quality Early Education Day on the Hill on February 6, in Nashville.

- Nancy participated in the SCORE annual report release, annual planning meeting and Steering Committee meeting on February 12, in Nashville.

**Publicity and Publications**

- News clippings and press releases are available for review.
- Annual Report has been published and distributed.