

Board Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.
General Morgan Inn Boardroom

Type of meeting: Board Facilitator: Scott M. Niswonger, Chairman

Attendees: Scott M. Niswonger, Chairman; Nikki Niswonger, Secretary; Nancy Dishner, President and CEO; Alan Levine, Board Member; John Tweed, Board Member; Robin Shepherd, CFO, The Niswonger Group

Agenda

1. Call to order and approval of minutes
2. Consideration of Board Appointment
3. Financial report and update
4. Foundation Report and Scholarship Update, Nancy Dishner
5. Consideration of various Mini Grants
 - a. Tennessee Craft
6. Consideration of various Partnerships
 - a. Greene County Schools Literacy Initiative
7. Discussion of Farm
8. Work Plan
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

Additional Information

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2016

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
NISWONGER FOUNDATION, INC.
Thursday, November 12, 2015

A meeting of the Directors of the Niswonger Foundation Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware (the "Foundation"), was held at the General Morgan Inn in Greeneville, Tennessee on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Board members Scott M. Niswonger, Alan Levine and Nikki Niswonger, as well as staff members Nancy Dishner, Richard Kitzmiller, Larry Neas, and Kathy Odell were present. Robin Shepherd was also present. Chad Kisner and Brittany Cassel from Blackburn, Childers and Steagall PLC, were guests. Scott M. Niswonger chaired the meeting.

Following the Chairman's call to order, the audit conducted by Blackburn, Childers & Steagall, PLC was reviewed and discussed by the Board. Chad Kisner and Brittany Cassel, representatives of the accounting firm, presented an overview of the audit. Recommendations were reviewed and discussed. The audit report was accepted and approved by the Board and will be filed with the records of the Foundation.

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Foundation's August 13, 2015 Board Meeting for approval. After discussion and upon a motion made by Mr. Levine and seconded by Mrs. Niswonger, the minutes were approved. (A copy of the minutes is filed with the records of the Foundation.)

The Chairman presented the financials for both the Niswonger Foundation and the Niswonger Foundation i3 grant. An update was provided on investments and expenditures. After discussion and upon motions made by Mrs. Niswonger and seconded by Mr. Levine, the financial reports were accepted. (Copies of the reports are filed with the records of the Foundation.)

Nancy Dishner presented the program and partnership report; and the scholarship and leadership report. Larry Neas provided the i3 grant report. Richard Kitzmiller reviewed the organizational work plan.

There were two action items for Board approval.

1. Dr. Dishner requested approval of the following list of individuals selected to receive the Niswonger Scholarship for 2015: Kori Lynn Smith (Chuckey Doak High School); Tanner Lynn Shivley (Sullivan South High School); Elijah "Bo" Charles Pless (Elizabethton High School); Savannah Rose Agan (Unaka High School); and Christian Michael Dalton (Hancock County High School). The Board approved the Scholars as presented.

- The Board was presented one mini-grant request for consideration.

- There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

President _____ Date _____
Scott M. Niswonger

Account Selection (2 Items) - as of 02/16/2016

Click on the accounts you wish to view below, or select a previously-defined account group.

Group: No Group ▼ [add/edit group](#)

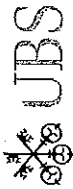
View Data as
of: Settle Date ▼

Account Account Name	Income Uninvested Cash	Income ACI	Principal Uninvested Cash	Principal ACI	Market Value
<input type="checkbox"/> 7901952 NISWONGER FOUNDATION - MISC UA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,709.26	\$5,175,268.07
<input type="checkbox"/> 1128729 NISWONGER FOUNDATION IA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$513.92	\$1,206,133.43

Please note: Market values reflect end of previous business day's pricing. Transactions can include current business day investment activities such as trades, share changes for stock splits, bond interest payments, etc. For stock splits, this can result in an inflated market value due to the system reflecting pre-split pricing and post-split quantities. Retroactive pricing adjustments may cause differences between SPV market values and printed statement market values.

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\$ 6,381,636.50



Portfolio holdings

as of February 12, 2016

Summary of Portfolio Holdings

	Cost basis (\$)	Value on 02/12/2016 (\$)	Unrealized gain/loss (\$)	Unrealized gain/loss (%)	Est. annual income (\$)	Current yield (%)	% of portfolio
A Cash	142,267.93	142,267.93	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	10.25%
Cash	142,267.93	142,267.93	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	10.25%
B Fixed Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
C Equity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
D Commodities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
E Non-Traditional	0.00	1,246,030.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	89.75%
Non-Traditional	0.00	1,246,030.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	89.75%
F Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Total Portfolio	\$142,267.93	\$1,388,297.93	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	0.00%	100%

Balanced mutual funds are allocated in the 'Other' category

Niswonger Foundation
Statement of Cash Flows
July through December 2015

	<u>Jul - Dec 15</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	-807,637.19
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:	
1201 · Accounts Receivable-Scholars	-21,294.79
2100 · Payroll Taxes Payable	1,175.32
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	-827,756.66
INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
1010 · Investments-Merrill Lynch	-2,021.03
1011 · Investments-UBS	324,942.50
1015 · Investments-Suntrust	553,063.66
Net cash provided by Investing Activities	875,985.13
FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
2410 · First Tennessee Line of Credit	85,962.35
Net cash provided by Financing Activities	85,962.35
Net cash increase for period	134,190.82
Cash at beginning of period	225,953.22
Cash at end of period	<u><u>360,144.04</u></u>

Niswonger Foundation
Statement of Financial Position
 As of December 31, 2015

	Dec 31, 15
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1006 · Cash-FTB-Checking	-4,310.00
1007 · Cash-FTB-Savings	364,454.04
Total Checking/Savings	360,144.04
Accounts Receivable	
1200 · Accounts Receivable	
1201 · Accounts Receivable-Schol...	91,584.31
Total 1200 · Accounts Receivable	91,584.31
Total Accounts Receivable	91,584.31
Other Current Assets	
1017 · Employee Advance	600.00
Total Other Current Assets	600.00
Total Current Assets	452,328.35
Other Assets	
1010 · Investments-Merrill Lynch	24,556.47
1011 · Investments-UBS	1,388,297.83
1015 · Investments-Suntrust	7,024,114.61
1016 · Collections	101,861.25
Total Other Assets	8,538,830.16
TOTAL ASSETS	8,991,158.51
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 · Payroll Taxes Payable	1,175.32
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,175.32
Total Current Liabilities	1,175.32
Long Term Liabilities	
2400 · Note payable-major contributor	1,136,826.00
2410 · First Tennessee Line of Credit	418,804.90
Total Long Term Liabilities	1,555,630.90
Total Liabilities	1,556,806.22
Equity	
3100 · Net Assets - Unrestricted	8,241,989.48
Net Income	-807,637.19
Total Equity	7,434,352.29
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	8,991,158.51

Niswonger Foundation
Profit & Loss
 July through December 2015

	Jul - Dec 15
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 · Contributions	
4001 · CARE Foundation	325,000.00
4000 · Contributions - Other	22,760.96
Total 4000 · Contributions	347,760.96
4010 · Investment income	368,855.09
4011 · Interest Income	87.55
4020 · Realized gains/losses	38,220.33
4030 · Unrealized gains/losses	-567,943.90
4035 · Other Income	
4036 · Niswonger i3 Partnerships	53,200.00
4035 · Other Income - Other	0.00
Total 4035 · Other Income	53,200.00
Total Income	240,180.03
Gross Profit	240,180.03
Expense	
5000 · Partnership programs	
5026 · Knoxville Symphony Orch	13,000.00
5028 · Storytelling Partnership	6,000.00
5029 · Sustainability Plan/PD	
5029R · Reimbursement	1,599.47
5029 · Sustainability Plan/PD - Other	24,841.19
Total 5029 · Sustainability Plan/PD	26,440.66
5031 · TC Professionalism for Leadersh	18,822.25
5050 · Other School Projects	-4,502.48
Total 5000 · Partnership programs	59,760.43
6000 · Scholarship program	
6005 · Tuition, room and board	181,441.94
6006 · Computers for Freshman	4,000.00
6010 · Books & Supplies	-2,094.40
6011 · Study Abroad/Scholar Travel	709.70
6012 · Internships	4,100.00
6013 · Non-scholar assistant	6,876.97
6014 · Fall Care Packages	346.61
6015 · Leadership training	
6016 · Summer Training/freshman Or...	402.50
6017 · Winter Training	822.41
6026 · Junior Trip	13,467.61
Total 6015 · Leadership training	14,692.52
6024 · Birthday gifts for scholars	300.00
Total 6000 · Scholarship program	210,373.34
7000 · Mini-grants	108,400.00
8000 · Operating expenses	
8003 · Personnel costs	
8004 · Salaries/Tusculum Institute	85,000.00
8005 · Salaries	100,690.61
8006 · Fringe Benefits	1,302.00
8008 · CARE Salaries	225,103.53
8015 · Payroll taxes	
8016 · CARE Payroll Taxes	17,880.29
8015 · Payroll taxes - Other	13,700.73
Total 8015 · Payroll taxes	31,581.02
8020 · Medical insurance	5,100.00

Niswonger Foundation
Profit & Loss
 July through December 2015

	Jul - Dec 15
8040 · Pension expense	8,553.06
Total 8003 · Personnel costs	457,330.22
8055 · Office supplies	2,879.41
8060 · Telephone/fax	22.72
8065 · Cellular Phones/iPads	2,751.13
8070 · Postage	1,519.59
8075 · Photocopying	880.41
8080 · Professional services	23,782.05
8081 · Grant Writing	740.00
8083 · Online Systems Support	7,500.00
8090 · Board expenses	4,289.80
8096 · Website/Server	5,125.40
8110 · Other travel expenses	4,190.21
8120 · Meals & entertainment	1,420.29
8130 · Memberships, fees & licenses	20.00
8135 · Conferences & continuing ed	3,136.13
8146 · Insurance/Miscellaneous	2,842.00
8155 · Investment fees	15,116.65
8162 · Interest Expense	6,323.03
8165 · Form 990-PF tax	4,277.00
8166 · First TN Banking Fees	1,700.02
Total 8000 · Operating expenses	545,846.06
9100 · NF CARE Program	
9101 · Intern Stipends-CARE	60,000.00
9102 · National Clearinghouse- CARE	1,000.00
9103 · Training & PD-CARE	5,120.62
9106 · Phone/Internet-CARE	4,700.00
9107 · Supplies & Materials-CARE	1,304.11
Total 9100 · NF CARE Program	72,124.73
9500 · The Farm Project	
9501 · Farm Reimbursement	341.00
9500 · The Farm Project - Other	50,971.66
Total 9500 · The Farm Project	51,312.66
Total Expense	1,047,817.22
Net Ordinary Income	-807,637.19
Net Income	-807,637.19

Niswonger Foundation
Schedule of Program Expense
 July through December 2015

	Jul - Dec 15	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Expense			
5000 · Partnership programs			
5026 · Knoxville Symphony Orch	13,000.00	15,000.00	86.7%
5027 · Valleybrook Project	0.00	100,000.00	0.0%
5028 · Storytelling Partnership	6,000.00	6,000.00	100.0%
5029 · Sustainability Plan/PD	24,841.19	400,000.00	6.2%
5031 · TC Professionalism for Leadersh	18,822.25	56,870.00	33.1%
5050 · Other School Projects	-4,502.48	25,500.00	-17.7%
Total 5000 · Partnership programs	58,160.96	603,370.00	9.6%
6000 · Scholarship program			
6005 · Tuition, room and board	181,441.94	350,000.00	51.8%
6006 · Computers for Freshman	4,000.00	5,000.00	80.0%
6010 · Books & Supplies	-2,094.40	4,000.00	-52.4%
6011 · Study Abroad/Scholar Travel	709.70	20,000.00	3.5%
6012 · Internships	4,100.00	10,000.00	41.0%
6013 · Non-scholar assistant	6,876.97	15,000.00	45.8%
6014 · Fall Care Packages	346.61	500.00	69.3%
6015 · Leadership training			
6016 · Summer Training/freshman Or...	402.50	10,000.00	4.0%
6017 · Winter Training	822.41	5,000.00	16.4%
6018 · Outdoor Challenge	0.00	6,000.00	0.0%
6019 · Senior trip	0.00	40,500.00	0.0%
6023 · Leadership Training Other	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
6026 · Junior Trip	13,467.61	20,000.00	67.3%
Total 6015 · Leadership training	14,692.52	91,500.00	16.1%
6020 · Welcome dinner for new scholars	0.00	500.00	0.0%
6021 · Graduating Senior Dinner	0.00	500.00	0.0%
6024 · Birthday gifts for scholars	300.00	500.00	60.0%
Total 6000 · Scholarship program	210,373.34	497,500.00	42.3%
7000 · Mini-grants	108,400.00	150,000.00	72.3%
9100 · NF CARE Program			
9101 · Intern Stipends-CARE	60,000.00	60,000.00	100.0%
9102 · National Clearinghouse- CARE	1,000.00	5,500.00	18.2%
9103 · Training & PD-CARE	5,120.62	25,000.00	20.5%
9104 · Student Programs-CARE	0.00	20,000.00	0.0%
9105 · Technology-CARE	0.00	17,600.00	0.0%
9106 · Phone/Internet-CARE	4,700.00	16,800.00	28.0%
9107 · Supplies & Materials-CARE	1,304.11	4,800.00	27.2%
Total 9100 · NF CARE Program	72,124.73	149,700.00	48.2%
9500 · The Farm Project	50,971.66		
Total Expense	500,030.69	1,400,570.00	35.7%
Net Ordinary Income	-500,030.69	-1,400,570.00	35.7%
Net Income	-500,030.69	-1,400,570.00	35.7%

Niswonger Foundation
Schedule of Operating Expenses
July through December 2015

	Jul - Dec 15	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Expense			
8000 · Operating expenses			
8003 · Personnel costs			
8004 · Salaries/Tusculum Institute	85,000.00	85,000.00	100.0%
8005 · Salaries	100,690.61	222,633.00	45.2%
8006 · Fringe Benefits	1,302.00	2,600.00	50.1%
8008 · CARE Salaries	225,103.53	464,667.00	48.4%
8015 · Payroll taxes			
8016 · CARE Payroll Taxes	17,880.29	35,547.00	50.3%
8015 · Payroll taxes - Other	13,700.73	22,196.00	61.7%
Total 8015 · Payroll taxes	31,581.02	57,743.00	54.7%
8020 · Medical insurance	5,100.00	10,800.00	47.2%
8040 · Pension expense	8,553.06	17,108.00	50.0%
Total 8003 · Personnel costs	457,330.22	860,551.00	53.1%
8045 · Computer software	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
8046 · Computer Hardware	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
8050 · Equipment repairs	0.00	500.00	0.0%
8055 · Office supplies	2,879.41	12,500.00	23.0%
8060 · Telephone/fax	22.72	500.00	4.5%
8065 · Cellular Phones/iPads	2,751.13	7,500.00	36.7%
8070 · Postage	1,519.59	3,000.00	50.7%
8075 · Photocopying	880.41	2,000.00	44.0%
8080 · Professional services	23,782.05	30,000.00	79.3%
8081 · Grant Writing	740.00	20,000.00	3.7%
8082 · Learning Resources Coordin...	0.00	36,000.00	0.0%
8083 · Online Systems Support	7,500.00	30,000.00	25.0%
8085 · Staff training	0.00	500.00	0.0%
8090 · Board expenses	4,289.80	5,000.00	85.8%
8096 · Website/Server	5,125.40	15,000.00	34.2%
8100 · Publications/brochures			
8101 · Annual Report	0.00	6,000.00	0.0%
8102 · Newsletters	0.00	8,000.00	0.0%
8103 · Scholar Directory	0.00	6,000.00	0.0%
Total 8100 · Publications/brochures	0.00	20,000.00	0.0%
8110 · Other travel expenses	4,190.21	10,000.00	41.9%
8120 · Meals & entertainment	1,420.29	5,000.00	28.4%
8125 · Subscriptions	0.00	500.00	0.0%
8130 · Memberships, fees & licenses	20.00	2,500.00	0.8%
8135 · Conferences & continuing ed	3,136.13	5,000.00	62.7%
8146 · Insurance/Miscellaneous	2,842.00	10,000.00	28.4%
8155 · Investment fees	15,116.65	75,000.00	20.2%
8162 · Interest Expense	6,323.03	10,000.00	63.2%
8165 · Form 990-PF tax	4,277.00	12,500.00	34.2%
8166 · First TN Banking Fees	1,700.02	3,000.00	56.7%
Total 8000 · Operating expenses	545,846.06	1,180,551.00	46.2%
Total Expense	545,846.06	1,180,551.00	46.2%
Net Ordinary Income	-545,846.06	-1,180,551.00	46.2%
Net Income	-545,846.06	-1,180,551.00	46.2%

Niswonger Foundation Board Update
Thursday, February 25, 2016
Programs and Partnerships

Partnership Update

- **Governor's Books from Birth (GBFB)** – Nancy was appointed to the GBFB State Advisory Board. We continue to provide funding for the first book, and program sign-up, for newborns in Northeast Tennessee through the region's birthing hospitals. We are also assisting Greene and Hawkins Counties with shortfalls in ability to support continuation of this program. Nancy met with Beverly Selmeski, county program coordinator, to discuss concerns related to Greene County.

College and Career Consortium

- We are encouraging a *Work Ready Diploma (or certification)*. Greene County and Greeneville are developing a program to implement in 2016-17, based on a Hamblen County model. Through our outreach to the First Tennessee Development District, Washington County Economic Development Board, AIMS Scholars Committee, area mayors, and regional CTE directors, region-wide implementation is in the planning stages.
- A formal partnership for district-wide improvement of the Greene County Schools is being implemented. The initial elements of this partnership that have been initiated are:
 - Direct support for the Greene County Board, including travel to visit a successful district, meeting with SCORE and Tennessee Department of Education specialists, a formal debriefing meeting and a work session.
 - Design for the *Niswonger Foundation Greene County Literacy Program* is underway and will be presented to the Board.
 - Vivian is working with the Greene County Secondary Principals on ACT improvement – *ACT Is the Gatekeeper for Post-Secondary Opportunities—Ways to increase ACT Scores*. The focus is on juniors for the April 19th exam, and, more importantly ways to bring and sustain improvement for the upcoming classes.
 - We have facilitated and funded an additional mobile laboratory of Chromebooks for the math program at Chuckey-Doak High School. This is in support of a SAILS math program and other uses.
 - We co-sponsored trips to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) conference in Nashville for four mathematics teachers (one from each high school).
- Through the New Teacher Center, Richard and Vivian are coordinating and facilitating leadership training for 65 new principals, aspiring school leaders, and facilitators on February 26-27 and the *School Directors Forum* to be held on February 25 for 17 Directors. The leadership training will continue on April 8-9 and June 2-3.
- Richard and Vivian are guiding the work of providing *Leadership for Blended Learning (LBL)* facilitator training for eight selected individuals at North Carolina

State University on April 12-14. These facilitators will return as trainers for our consortium. They will begin LBL principal cohorts in May or June that will last for 5 months.

- The 2016 School Success Symposium is scheduled for June 30 with Craig Kielburger as the keynote speaker. He leads the *Me to We* program in schools. This program empowers students to take their knowledge to the community and begin to make changes for community improvement. Craig motivates educators to work with students to use their skills in the community and showcase their learning and leadership. Vivian is responsible for the Symposium planning.
- Vivian and Richard are planning and coordinating our *AP Summer Institutes and Academies*. The resource focus will be on retraining needs of AP instructors due to test changes in specific subjects, and supporting continued professional development of other AP instructors in our region.
- Richard is coordinating the planning for the summer *Code Academies* for students in middle and high schools in our consortium.
 - The first, *Learning to Code with Java*, will be taught in a new blended learning concept beginning in March.
 - Numerous summer 2016 *Academies* will be announced by March 1.
 - Efforts to specifically introduce girls to STEM careers are being planned, including *Girls in Science and Technology (GIST)*, and *Girls of Code*.
 - We are partnering with LaunchTN, AccelNow and Innovation Forge to develop and implement a weeklong CAD camp, teaching CAD and 3-D imaging.
- We presented at the *Superintendent's Study Council* meetings on December 8, 2015 and January 12, 2016.
- *Niswonger Online* courses are underway for spring term, with 392 students enrolled in 31 courses. This is an increase from Fall 2015 (171 enrolled). There is a decrease from Spring 2015 (493 enrolled) when all costs were covered by the i3 grant.

NiswongerCARE Program

- To temporarily alleviate our shortage of office space, we have entered into a lease arrangement with ETSU at the Valleybrook facility. They are providing offices, furnishings, and meeting space. This was negotiated at no-cost.
- NiswongerCARE leadership team continues to make regular school visits for advisor observations, and receive feedback on advisor and program effectiveness.
- Each Advisor received a mid-year formal evaluation in December using several forms of feedback including survey results sent to each school level facilitator, artifacts depicting some of their best practices, and data from daily log activity.
- Advisor winter training included intensive preparation for assisting students and parents in completing a financial aid application (FAFSA), a mandatory step in securing funding for college, including TN Promise, HOPE Scholarships, and Pell grants.

- Mary Laphen, Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), provided training to assist Advisors in organizing Tennessee's "Path to College" events coming up this spring. These state sponsored events include a College Planning Night for juniors, and College Signing Day to celebrate all seniors who have been accepted to a post-secondary institute. Advisors are now working with schools to plan these two events.
- Cumulative data for fall term show results as follows:
 - Held 2,784 individual student meetings.
 - Assisted 1,835 students in completing Tennessee Promise applications to secure funding for community college.
 - Helped 1,034 students to register and prepare for the ACT test.
 - Delivered 175 group presentations to students on topics such as choosing the right college, how to write a resume, how to write a scholarship, etc.

Tusculum Institute Update

- Scott and Nancy attended the Tusculum Board of Trustees meeting on February 19-20.
- This year the Foundation will finish a three-year partnership commitment that established the Professionalism for Leadership program at Tusculum College.

Foundation Meetings, Events and Programs

- Niswonger Foundation sponsored a regional "*Lunch and Learn*" program in partnership with the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) on November 20. The purpose was to acquaint business leaders and elected officials with the State's new TNReady examination. Dr. Vicki Kirk, Deputy Commissioner of Education was the keynote speaker.
- On November 23, Scott, Richard, Vivian and Nancy met with Greene County School Board members to debrief the visit to Trousdale County and discuss next action steps.
- Nancy attended three Governor's Transformational Leadership Advisory Committee meetings in Nashville – November 30, December 14 and February 22.
- Nancy was the speaker for the Johnson City Rotary Club on December 1.
- Scott and Nancy took newly selected Niswonger Scholar, Bo Pless, for a visit to Purdue University on December 2.
- Richard, Vivian and Nancy attended a celebration of the Code Camp program at Ottway School, Greene County, that has been supported by the Niswonger Foundation. With the success of the initial program, the school has received a grant from another organization for \$10,000 to continue the work.
- Niswonger Foundation held a holiday luncheon for the Directors' of Schools from the region. Scott and Nancy hosted the event.
- Richard and Nancy attended two meetings of the First Tennessee Development District to discuss "workforce ready" efforts on January 4 and 11.

- Nancy spoke to the workforce and education sub-committee of the Washington County Economic Development Board regarding “workforce ready” efforts on January 7.
- Nancy served on the Mountain States Health Alliance Research and Academics Steering Committee, attending meetings on January 13 and February 4.
- Richard and Vivian presented at the Superintendent’s Study Council on January 12.
- Nancy chaired the Roan Scholars Steering Committee selection process on January 12.
- Nancy attended the Governor’s Books from Birth Board meeting in Nashville on January 19.
- Nancy has been asked to participate in a Tennessee Learning Circle funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She attended the first session on January 26-27 in Nashville.
- Nancy attended the SCORE *State of Education* presentation in Nashville on January 27.
- Scott, Richard, Vivian and Nancy facilitated a work session for the Greene County School Board on February 3.
- Nancy is a judge for the Niswonger Children’s Hospital youth talent search with various auditions scheduled in February.
- Nancy attended the Tennessee Independent College and University Association (TICUA) Board meeting on February 22, and Annual Meeting on February 23 in Nashville.
- Nancy attended the Governor’s “*Read to be Ready*” literacy program kick-off in Nashville on February 24.

General Foundation News

Upcoming Events

- *College Career Consortium Leadership Meeting*, Tuesday, March 8, 11:30 a.m., General Morgan Inn.
- *NiswongerCARE Leadership Meeting*, Thursday, March 10, 9:00 a.m., General Morgan Inn.

Contributions Received Since November Board Meeting

United Way of Washington County Donations	178.88
Brotherton Foundation	10,000.00
Austin Snell	2,500.00
Dennis Depew	1,000.00
Scott M. Niswonger	100,000.00
YourCause	403.20

In addition, we are participating in matching funds with LaunchTN, which will add additional STEM programming opportunities for summer. This is a \$10,000 match.

Board Calendar

An updated Board Calendar is included as an attachment.

Publications

- Since the November Board meeting, the following publications have been prepared and distributed:
 - Annual Report
 - Fall Newsletter
 - Scholars Directory
 - A publication entitled *Innovation*, has been developed to share the story of the Investing in Innovation (i3) grant. It is at press. We will begin the distribution in late February.

**Niswonger Foundation
2016 Board Planning Calendar**

Board Meeting Dates

Thursday, February 25 – General Morgan Inn Board Room

Thursday, May 12 – Landair Board Room

Thursday, August 11 – Landair Board Room

Thursday, November 17 – Landair Board Room

(9:00 a.m. – location will be provided)

Board Activities with the Scholars

Thursday, April 21

Welcome Dinner for New Scholars

7:00 p.m.

General Morgan Inn Ballroom

Tuesday, May 17

Outdoor Challenge Survival Picnic

5:30 p.m.

Nancy's House – 130 W. Main Street, Jonesborough

Tuesday, May 24

Senior Scholars' Graduation Dinner

7:00 p.m.

General Morgan Inn Ballroom

Monday, May 23 – Friday, May 27

Scholars' Summer Training

(Special events will be planned during this week, including our Annual Board Luncheon)

Thursday, November 10

New Scholars Selection

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

General Morgan Inn, Board Room

Saturday, December 17

Alumni Scholar Event

(time/location to be determined)

Monday and Tuesday, December 19-20

Winter Training

General Morgan Inn

Niswonger Foundation Board Update

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Scholarship and Leadership

Scholar Updates

Recent News

- Winter Training was held on December 21-22. Trey Dodson (Vanderbilt, senior) assisted Nancy in facilitating the training. The text was *"Some of my Best Friends are Black,"* by Tanner Colby. We extend sincere appreciation to Board Member, Alan Levine, for hosting the Scholars for a special session with him at Mountain States Health Alliance. Our thanks to Scott and Nikki Niswonger for joining the Scholars for much of training. The Scholars were particularly delighted by the appearance of "Santa Clause."

Academic Achievement

The following Scholars maintained a 4.0 gpa for the Fall Semester 2015:

- Zachary Ward (University of Tennessee, freshman)
- Matthew Widener (East Tennessee State University, freshman)
- Dustin Howser (Vanderbilt University, junior)
- Katie Shields (University of Tennessee, junior)
- Gage Armstrong (East Tennessee State University, senior)
- Trey Dodson (Vanderbilt University, senior)
- Ivory Shelton (Wake Forest University, senior)
- Richard Vradenburgh (Tennessee Technological University, senior)

All Scholars are fully in compliance with the semester and cumulative grade point average requirements.

Service Achievement

- Our "shining stars" with community service for fall semester were Gage Armstrong (68 hours), Zachary Ward (65 hours), Katie Shields (65 hours), Trey Dodson (53 hours), Hope Adkins (50 hours), and Sam Brashears (50 hours). Every Scholar completed at least 40 hours. Over 890 hours of community service was completed by our Scholars during fall semester 2015.

Summer Study Abroad

- Gage Armstrong (East Tennessee State University, senior) will complete a culture and health internship on Terceira Island in the Azores. In addition to his studies, he will be working in a local hospital and teaching English.
- Study abroad experiences are currently being planned with Alora Ricker (Milligan College, sophomore), Raini Rowenhorst (East Tennessee State University, junior), and Madeline Standbridge (University of Tennessee, sophomore.)

Senior Update

- *Gage Armstrong* (East Tennessee State University) will be taking a gap year before medical school to be a research technician in biomedical science at Quillen College of Medicine.
- *Trey Dodson* (Vanderbilt University) has accepted a position with Deloitte, in Chicago.
- *Ivory Shelton* (Wake Forest University) has been accepted into the M.D. program at Wake Forest University
- *Matthew Sheppard* (Clemson University) will be completing a summer internship at Eastman Chemical Company with CeeGee McCord.
- *Richard Vradenburgh* (Tennessee Technological University) has been accepted into the Ph.D program in mathematics at Georgia Tech. He is awaiting the results.

New Scholars

- Our New Scholars' Dinner is planned for Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. at the General Morgan Inn. All Board members and spouses are encouraged to attend.
- A press release for our New Scholars was issued in January and received good coverage in regional newspapers.
- Contacts have been made with our new Scholars and their families to offer assistance with college selection, scholarship applications, etc.
- Home visits are currently scheduled and being completed.

Summer Training

The tentative agenda for Summer Training is as follows:

Outdoor Challenge	May 14-17
Challenge "Survival Picnic"	May 17
Boat Trip	May 19-22
Orientation	Sunday, May 22
Training Week	May 23-27
Senior Dinner	Tuesday, May 24
Board and Staff Luncheon	Wednesday, May 25
Annual Day of Service	Thursday, May 26
Normandy Trip	May 28-June 6
New York City	August 4-7

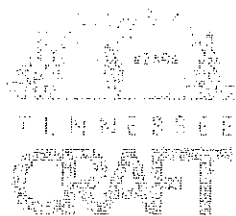
**Additional details regarding training week will be provided as finalized.*

Scholar Alumni Updates

- The 2015 Scholar Alumni Reunion was held on Saturday, December 20 at the General Morgan Inn. We were joined by Kate Stone, Leadership Tennessee. The Alumni will be assisting in developing a leadership effort for Northeast Tennessee. We have two meetings planned:
 - **Saturday, February 27**, Alumni will have a planning meeting from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m. at the *Black Olive Restaurant*, in Jonesborough.
 - **Saturday, March 5**, Alumni will meet with Kate Stone to finalize plans from 11:30 – 2:00 p.m. at the *Dining Room Restaurant*, in Jonesborough.

Board Action Required

- The Board is requested to approve an additional financial assistance student for the 2015-16 academic year. Katelyn Welch, a Van Wert High School student, has been identified as an individual for whom we would like to provide \$1000, per semester, for her first collegiate year. This award will be renewable for three years, total of 8 semesters, if she meets the requirements for this award. Katelyn's career aspirations are to attend medical school and become an Anesthesiologist.



November 16, 2015

Niswonger Foundation
P.O. Box 5112
Greeneville, TN 37743

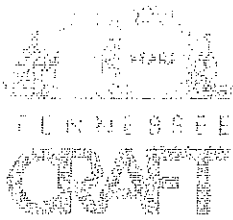
Please accept this letter requesting \$15,000, in support of Tennessee Craft's *Best of Tennessee Craft* exhibit, public programming and awards planned for August through November, 2016 at the Carroll Reece Museum at East Tennessee State University.

Tennessee Craft is a statewide nonprofit whose mission is to continue and create Tennessee's fine craft tradition by connecting emerging and experienced makers and the community with resources and opportunities to make their mark on our state's handmade legacy. We produce twice-a-year craft fairs in Nashville's Centennial Park and support craft artists across the state as they refine their work and grow their businesses. Six regional chapters provide support and programming to their local artists. You may be familiar with our Northeast Chapter of Tennessee Craft, formerly known as the State of Franklin chapter of TACA. They have partnered with the City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts, and also Engage Kingsport to present the 2016 Carousel Fine Craft Show, and regularly participate in the Fine Art in the Park and the Storytelling Festival with fine craft exhibits.

The Best of Tennessee Craft is a biennial exhibit of work created in the past two years by the finest craft artists across Tennessee. The exhibit is typically juried by an out-of-state juror or jurors using an online application process, and includes programming designed to encourage the public to appreciate and learn more about the process of making fine craft and to assist worthy artists in further establishing their fine craft reputation with recognition and awards within a museum-level show.

First Lady Crissy Haslam has been contacted to repeat her role as our honorary chairperson to Tennessee Craft. Last year she served as 50th anniversary and Tennessee Craft Week chairperson; this year, hopefully, she'll serve for Tennessee Craft Week and this exhibit. The First Lady's Office is also spotlighting Tennessee craft in the Governor's Residence *Home for the Holidays* tours, with assistance from Tennessee Craft and Tennessee Arts Commission in identifying artists and art organizations. It's been an exciting year of visibility for Tennessee Craft and fine craft in Tennessee.

The funds we request will be used to stage the call-for-artists, reimburse a panel of jurors from outside the state, stage the exhibit and public reception in partnership with the Reece Museum of ETSU, create awards and present four public programs. Should your foundation have interest, some funds could be allocated for Purchase Awards, where the purchased work would then go in your own or another collection or be donated to an appropriate museum in your name.



This exhibit offers craft artists in rural and urban areas across Tennessee the opportunity to receive special recognition for having their work accepted into a museum-quality show. Sales and additional revenue from demonstrations and honorarium fees for public programming support artists in their efforts to earn a living, allowing them continue practicing their craft.

Planned educational programming will increase appreciation for the imagination, refined skills, and sustained practice needed for making fine craft, and inspire future artists to tap into their own creativity and ability to learn skills that our ancestors used for making objects of function, not just beauty.

Over time, the recognition and career boost given artists whose work is accepted into a museum-quality exhibit and, in some cases, purchased and thus included in a museum collection, has long-term effects, both on an artist's confidence and their collectability.

We believe when artists are benefitted, the benefit spreads to the public as well, in the form of increased quality of life and economic impact, in the communities where the artists live and work, making communities stronger and more vibrant places to live. We expect there would be significant impact to this community's pride by hosting such an exhibit, and know that connections made between artists, the museum and the public can be strengthened and sustained, fostering an exchange of support given *by* individual artists and to them, throughout their careers.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration,

Teri Alea | Executive Director

TACA is now Tennessee Craft

talea@tennesseecraft.org | c: 615.400.1624

2016 Best of Tennessee Craft (BOTC) exhibit
In partnership with the Reece Museum, ETSU

Last Printed

11/16/2015

Income

	Timing	BUDGET	Notes
Presenting Sponsor	by June 2016	\$ 15,000	
Award Sponsor	by January, 2016	\$ 5,000	Best Of award - \$5,000 (Purchase award?)
Reception Sponsor	by June 2016	\$ 2,000	Pays for juror accommodations plus wine
Earned income	Feb.-Aug. 2016	\$ 3,000	
Participation fee	Dec. 2015	\$ 750	From Reece Museum
Total Income		\$ 25,750	

Expenses

License-online application portal (Call for Entry)	Nov. 2016	\$ 300	
Call-to-Artist Postcard distribution	Nov-Dec. 2015	\$ 900	Gr.Design: \$250; Printing: \$250; Postage & handling: \$400.
Per application charges (appr.250)	Jan-July, 2016	\$ 500	
Bank charges, licenses (Zapplication)	Jan-July, 2016	\$ 100	
Honorarium - jurors	June 2016	\$ 1,500	3 jurors
Reception invitation distribution	July-Aug. 2016	\$ 1,400	Gr.Design: \$350; Printing: \$400; Postage & handling: \$650. 400 ml. x 2 x .50 = \$400. \$150 hotel + \$75 per diem x2= \$450. \$450+400=\$850.
Travel - jurors	Aug. 2016	\$ 2,550	
Artist awards	Aug. 2016	\$ 12,500	(\$5,000 x 1; \$1,500 x 5)
Event - family day	Aug. 2016	\$ 1,000	Demonstrations
Event #2	Sept. 2016	\$ 1,500	Panel honorariums
Event #3	Sept.-Oct. 2016	\$ 1,500	
Event #4 - Tennessee Craft Week	Oct. 2016	\$ 2,000	Demos + ??
Total Expenses		\$ 25,750	

Net gain/(loss)

\$ -

Department of The Treasury

Internal Revenue Service
EP/EO Division
EO Group 7404
C-1130
Atlanta, GA 30301

Tennessee Association
of Craft Artists
P.O. Box 120066
Nashville, TN 37212-0066

Person To Contact:
Terry Williams
Telephone Number:
(404)331-3793
Refer Reply To:
EO17404:AM
EIN:
23-7309306
Date: August 24, 1990

Dear Sir or Madam:

We have received the information that you submitted in regards to your organization's change of name, from "Tennessee Artist-Craftsmen Association" to "Tennessee Association of Craft Artists." This information has been made a part of your file.


Your organization shall continue to be recognized as exempt under Sections 501(C)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code, effective as of May 1978. You may continue to rely on this exemption until it is modified, terminated or revoked by the Internal Revenue Service.

Please continue to let us know of any changes in the purpose, character, method of operation, name or address of your organization. This is a requirement for retaining your exempt status.

A copy of this letter should remain in your permanent records, as it may help resolve any questions about your exempt status.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Terry Williams
Coordinator
Exempt Organizations



STATE OF TENNESSEE
Tre Hargett, Secretary of State
Division of Business Services
William R. Snodgrass Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks AVE, 6th FL
Nashville, TN 37243-1102

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF CRAFT ARTISTS
PO BOX 120066
NASHVILLE, TN 37212-0066

November 6, 2013

Filing Acknowledgment

Please review the filing information below and notify our office immediately of any discrepancies.

Control # : 84840 Status: Active

Filing Type: Corporation Non-Profit - Domestic

Document Receipt

Receipt # : 1202717

Filing Fee: \$20.00

Payment-Check/MO - TERESA ALEA, NASHVILLE, TN

\$20.00

Amendment Type: Assumed Name

Image # : 7255-0740

Filed Date: 11/06/2013 9:22 AM

This will acknowledge the filing of the attached assumed name with an effective date as indicated above. When corresponding with this office or submitting documents for filing, please refer to the control number given above. The name registration is effective for five years from the date the original registration was filed with the Secretary of State.

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Processed By: Cheryl Donnell

Field Name

Changed From

Changed To

New Assumed Name

No Value

Tennessee Craft

State of Tennessee



Department of State
Corporate Filings
312 Rosa L. Parks Ave.
6th Floor, William R. Snodgrass Tower
Nashville, TN 37243

APPLICATION FOR
REGISTRATION OF
ASSUMED CORPORATE
NAME

For Office Use Only

FILED

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 48-14-101(d) of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act or Section 48-54-101(d) of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, the undersigned corporation hereby submits this application:

1. The true name of the corporation is Tennessee Association of Craft Artists
2. The state or country of incorporation is Tennessee, USA
3. The corporation intends to transact business in Tennessee under an assumed corporate name.
4. The assumed corporate name the corporation proposes to use is Tennessee Craft

[NOTE: The assumed corporate name must meet the requirements of Section 48-14-101 of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act or Section 48-54-101 of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act.]

Nov. 5, 2013
Signature Date

Tennessee Association of Craft Artists
Name of Corporation

Executive Director
Signer's Capacity

Talea
Signature

Teri Alea
Name (typed or printed)

7255-8742 11/05/2013 09:27:56 Received by Tennessee Secretary of State The Bell Co



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

PO Box 70660
Johnson City, TN 37614
P (423) 439-7074
F (423) 439-4283

Reece Museum

January 5, 2016

Niswonger Foundation
16 Gilland Street
Greeneville, TN 37745

RE: Letter of Support for Tennessee Craft

Recently, the Executive Director of Tennessee Craft, Ms. Teri Alea submitted a proposal to the Niswonger Foundation for support of *The Best of Tennessee Craft*—an exhibition to be held at the Reece Museum on the campus of East Tennessee State University in the fall of 2016. With this letter, I want to support that proposal.

In a time when Appalachia is beginning to transition away from a dependency on the coal economy (consider the recent CSX announcement that the company will reduce its workforce in Erwin by 300 jobs), I think our region's deeply-rooted craft tradition may play a part in the region's economic transition. As such, the programming the Reece Museum plans to build around *The Best of Tennessee Craft* exhibition will be centered on the business of marketing and selling crafts for ETSU students currently enrolled in the Department of Art and Design, and other regional craft artists. Ms. Alea has already offered her enthusiastic support for these programming goals.

Again, I hope you will give careful consideration of the Tennessee Craft proposal. I think bringing *The Best of Tennessee Craft* exhibition to northeast Tennessee will have positive repercussions beyond the run of the show.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall K. Sanders".

Randall K. Sanders
Director, Reece Museum

RKS:mh

ETSU.EDU



Niswonger Foundation



Greene County Schools

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

Partnership Agreement

Niswonger Foundation and Greene County Schools

K-2 Literacy Initiative

Rationale:

Literacy is the ability to read, write, compute, and use technology at a level that enables an individual to reach his or her full potential as a parent, employee, and community member. Third grade reading scores indicate improvement is needed to ensure that students in kindergarten through second grade have received the foundational skills necessary for reading mastery.

The Niswonger Foundation will enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Greene County School System to assist and support a K-2 Literacy Initiative at three elementary schools – Chuckey Elementary, Glenwood Elementary, and Ottway Elementary. Twenty classrooms in these 3 elementary schools have been selected as a purposeful sample based on achievement scores, community profile, and strong willingness and support from the principals and teachers.

Focus of the Program:

- Identify and implementing the most effective early literacy teaching method
- Provide professional development and personalized support to teachers to ensure effective instruction.
- Data driven process - including readiness assessment, progress monitoring, and checkpoints for instructional changes, as needed.
- Use of technology to support instruction and training of teachers to ensure effectiveness of each method.
- Personalized approach to instruction for each student.
- Refine a program that can be scaled up to other Greene County Schools.
- Dramatically improved third grade literacy scores.

Term of Partnership:

The partnership will officially begin on March 1, 2016 and end on June 30, 2019. These dates may change upon agreement by both parties.

Partnership Responsibilities:

Niswonger Foundation

- Provide funding for a Literacy Specialist.
- Compensate K-2 teachers in pilot schools for participation with initiative.
- Support literacy focused professional development.
- Provide guidance and support from Niswonger Foundation staff and other specialists.
- Secure technology for K-2 pilot schools.
- Seek support through state-level programs in initiatives.
- Share lessons learned with external communities.

Greene County Schools

- Support the Literacy Specialist as a regular system employee.
- Ensure teacher participation in and support of K-2 Literacy professional development opportunities.
- Take lead in ensuring appropriate and adequate data collection.
- Assist Foundation staff in developing and sharing progress reports.
- Provide technology support.
- Allow open access to classrooms.
- visitation for literacy related stakeholders by appropriate Foundation staff.
- Assist with and/or secure venue(s) for professional development activities.
- Serve as an ambassador for the initiative to outside groups and stakeholder organizations (public relations).
- Support and encourage principal and teacher participation with all activities relating to the initiative.

It is understood by the parties that this agreement will be reviewed annually. A report will be developed and shared with stakeholders.

We accept the responsibilities and conditions of this agreement and commit our support to this partnership.

Rick Tipton, Chairman
Greene County Board of Education

Date

David McClain, Director
Greene County Schools

Date

Nancy Dishner, President and CEO
Niswonger Foundation

Date

The Greene County/Niswonger Foundation Literacy Initiative

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Literacy Specialist		\$ 54,949.00	\$ 55,976.00	\$ 56,550.00
Stipends:	Planning	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Learning Leaders (2)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
	Teacher (20)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Reading Specialists (3)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Staff	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
	Total	\$ 96,949.00	\$ 92,976.00	\$ 93,550.00

To Be Determined:

Technology	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assessments/Programming	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -