

**Programs and Partnerships  
Niswonger Foundation Board Update  
Thursday, November 14, 2019**

**Partnership Updates**

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

*Hancock County:*

- *Place Based Learning*- We are exploring locations and logistics for a *Storybook Trail* in Sneedville. This will be the culminating project for the Hancock County literacy grant.
- Representative Mark White, Chair of the House Education Committee will accompany us to Hancock County on Tuesday, November 26.
- Amanda Carpenter continues to assist Hancock County with professional development activities for their staff.

*Literacy Land:*

- We hosted a *Book Bus Summit* on Wednesday, October 30 in partnership with Governors Books from Birth. Guests from across the state toured Literacy Land.
- Daytime Tri-Cities filmed a show that included various interviews in the center.
- Additional organization and the development of the checkout process will be done by teachers from Hancock County Elementary.
- The children's book collection is being organized.

*Knoxville Symphony Orchestra:*

- The 2019 KSO Kids Concerts was held on Tuesday, November 5. Two concerts were conducted with 2000 students registered to attend.

*The Dictionary Project:*

- Over 700 student dictionaries were distributed to Greene County and Greeneville City School's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students with the assistance of 911 Director, Jerry Bird and the Youth Builders of Greeneville, and sponsored by the Niswonger Foundation.

**Rural LIFE (2017 EIR)**

- We are "winding down" the second (final) year of the research study; after the Spring 2020 state achievement testing, the formal intervention will be complete. Our evaluation partner will then be responsible for analyzing the data and completing the research report.
- Our local efforts will shift toward sustaining our work in the first 36 schools and supporting our second group of 36 schools. We will guide the work in the second group with similar methods. These schools will receive coaching and financial assistance for their unique school plan.

**Education Innovation and Research (2019 EIR) project**

In the 2019 EIR competition, the US Department of Education awarded one Expansion grant (along with other, smaller mid-phase and early-phase awards). On October 28, New Teacher Center announced details ([link](#)); an excerpt (below) gives a description.

*New Teacher Center (NTC), a national nonprofit focused on disrupting the predictability of educational inequities for systemically underserved students by accelerating educator effectiveness, today announces a new \$14 million research budget inclusive of a \$12.8 million grant from the Department of Education's Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Expansion program.*

*The EIR grant and research budget will support New Teacher Center over a span of five years in implementing its high-quality, standards-aligned instructional coaching (IC) program to improve the effectiveness of 8,600 teachers via job-embedded coaching and advance the learning of over 133,000 K-12 students in high-need rural and urban school districts.*

*Districts partnering to implement this teacher development system with New Teacher Center include: the Southeast/South-Central Education Cooperative (SESC) in Appalachia, Kentucky and the Niswonger Consortium of School Systems in Northeast Tennessee (TN Consortium), as well as urban partners including Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) and Houston Independent School District (HISD).*

- Early discussions indicate the Niswonger Foundation's share of the total budget to be ~\$2.4M; this sum, however, includes pass-through and in-kind costs (such as a share of the external evaluation). Our budget will support personnel (and other) costs for two full-time project staff members and significant number of Professional Development opportunities for our 60+ local schools.

### **Niswonger Online**

- Fall 2019 closes on Friday, December 13. Over 700 students are enrolled.
- We scheduled 40 sections of 30 different courses. Twenty seven teachers were employed.
- Top enrollments:
  - Foreign Languages (277 students)
  - Social Studies (Personal Finance, Economics and Government)
  - Advanced Placement (6 different AP courses)
- Spring 2020 opens January 21. Enrollment has just opened. Schools have until January 31 to enroll students.
- New course offering for Spring 2020 - ACT Preparation. This is a ½ credit course that can be tailored to a student's particular test preparation deficiencies.
- American Sign Languages will be a new course for Fall 2020. A certified teacher has been identified from Science Hill High School.
- Niswongeronline.com is continuously being updated to reflect changes in the schools, course catalog, and program partnerships.

### **NiswongerCARE Online Affiliates**

- New systems for fall 2019 are Dyersburg City, Dyer County, and Clay Co.
- Dyersburg City will not be using CARE Funds
- New systems have enrolled students and partnership is going well. These three systems enrolled a total of 99 students for this fall semester.
- New Focus Systems to recruit: Sevier, Union, Meigs, Obion and Lake.

### **8th Grade Enrichment**

- By pushing 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.
- Meeting and working with two K-8 schools from Hawkins Co. They hope to enroll 8th graders in Spring 2020.
- Sharing media and information with all schools about the program

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

- “Delivery of Service” meetings were held in all 30 high schools to guide the work of the advisors. Specific goals were established to meet the unique needs of each school. Key staff collaborated during these meetings including the NiswongerCARE Director or Associate Director and Advisor, School Counselor, and Principal.
- Advisors reported to their assigned schools the week of August 14.
- Ongoing supervision and observation meetings are being conducted by the program directors assigned to each advisor.
- *Summer Melt* Data show that 74% of students we served this summer matriculated to the post-secondary institution. This reflects an 8% increase from the summer of 2018.
- Advisors and leadership team will be trained as Reconnect Ambassadors on November 22.

#### *Outcome Summary (July 1-September 30)*

- Individual meetings- **2,128** students served
  - ACT registration and preparation-**827** students assisted
  - Dual Enrollment Grant- **327** students assisted
  - TN Promise Applications-**3,188** students assisted
  - College Application Week events- **30** high schools, **3,211** students participated
- Group Presentations- **255** presentations, **4,881** students and **230** parents attended.

### **CareerConnect**

- Hired Brett Seybert, Program Coordinator, with a start date of October 16. Will be assisting with CareerConnect and Work Ethic Diploma expansion.
- Summer Camp dates have been set for June and July. Planning is ongoing for both.
- School meetings for 10th-12th graders are underway; meetings in November are employer led.
- Schedules for Spring monthly meetings have been set.

- Meeting set to discuss expansion of program to Morristown.

### ***WE Track***

- Regional high schools are continuing to track for this school year.
- \$100,000 in funding from the State was received for upgrades and rollout across the State. The web-based program is receiving updates.
- Strategic rollout planning with state Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development are underway.
- Expanded to Lake County in West TN; Lenoir City on board to start Fall 2020; further expansions are expected.

### **Boards, Committees and Activities (Since last Board meeting on August 8)**

- **Scott Niswonger was honored at the naming ceremony for the Walters State Niswonger Campus on September 26.**
- WJHL's Daytime Tri-Cities was broadcast live from the Niswonger Foundation on October 22.
- The Niswonger Foundation hosted the Book Bus Summit in partnership with the Governor's Books from Birth and Delta Dental.
- **Scott Niswonger was inducted into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame on November 2.**
- Nancy Participated in the following Board Meetings
  - Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) (2 meetings)
  - Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities (TICUA)
  - Governors Books from Birth (3 meetings)
  - Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE)
  - Communities in Schools (2 meetings)
- Nancy was appointed by Tennessee's Department of Education Commissioner Schwinn to her Partnership Cabinet.
- Board members Scott, Nikki, Alan and Nancy attended an event with Governor Lee on November 3.

### **Program and Partnership Updates**

- News clippings and press releases are available for review.
- The Niswonger Foundation website has been updated.