**Programs and Partnerships**

**Niswonger Foundation Board Update**

**Thursday, November 17, 2016**

**Partnership Updates**

* The 2016 *Young People’s Concert* was a success. With the theme of *“A Kid’s Guide to the Orchestra,”* the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra performed for over 2000 students at NPAC on Thursday, November 3. Ten school systems/21 schools were represented. Thanks to Board Member, Nikki Niswonger, for being in attendance.
* Activities with the *International Storytelling Center* partnership included the international live-streaming of the National Storytelling Festival on Friday, October 7. The live stream reached more than 20 countries (from China, to Indonesia, to Europe) and was viewed in all 50 U.S. States. The Foundation sponsored a Teachers’ Storytelling Workshop on Saturday, September 24, in Jonesborough, and continues to provide free tickets to the “Teller in Residence” programs for economically challenged school children throughout the year.
* The Niswonger Foundation’s initiative with the *Governor’s Books from Birth* program hosted Tennessee First Lady, Crissy Haslam, in Greeneville, on Thursday, October 13. Scott M. Niswonger represented the Niswonger Foundation as announcements were made at both Laughlin Hospital and Takoma Hospital that each was joining the initiative to sign families up for the program and provide the first book.
* *The Greene County Literacy* *Project* *(LIFE)* is in full implementation.
  + On October 4, 2016, the three partner schools (Glenwood, Ottway and Chuckey) hosted *“A Day in the Life of Your Child*” events. These community engagement efforts introduced parents and extended family members to the changes in instructional methods and provided books and materials for each family to use at home. Dinner was provided to all the families to introduce the new outsourced food purveyor, Chartwell’s. Special thanks to Board Member, Nikki Niswonger, for participating.
  + Larry, Richard, Amanda and Nancy met with Director of Schools, Tony Seal, and other representatives from Hancock County on Tuesday, November 8. The Niswonger Foundation has two grants in process that would allow for the LIFE program to be initiated in Hancock County.
  + On November 9, Larry and Amanda met with Greene County supervisors for a work session and “next steps” for the LIFE program.
  + On November 12, a Literacy Fair was held at the Greene County Fair Grounds. This community engagement event, co-sponsored by the Niswonger Foundation and Greene County Schools, was themed *“Charlotte’s Web,”* based on the book by E.B. White. Numerous activities were available to all Greene County students and families. Each child received a copy of the book “Charlotte’s Web to take home. A special thanks to Board Chairman, Scott Niswonger, for reading to the children.
  + During recent visits to each school it was observed that teachers were working diligently to assist children to improve literacy achievement. Teacher assistants are playing a tremendous part in the success of this program. Three assistants will be attending the Title I Conference in Gatlinburg. The Niswonger Foundation and the school system’s Title I funds will be used to finance this trip.
  + During the last two weeks Amanda has participated in team meetings at each location. At each school, student data have been reviewed in detail. After analysis of these scores, some students have been reclassified to different ability groups. The majority of these placements have been in moving students to more rigorous reading groups. ***In less than three months, positive data trends have been observed at each school.***
* Career*Connect*, in partnership with Greene County Schools, has been initiated. Law Loving, a Niswonger Scholar Alumni, was hired as the Career*Connect* Coordinator.
  + An information breakfast for educational and business leaders was held on September 20 at the General Morgan Inn.
  + Law has met with stakeholders at the five high schools in Greene County/Greeneville City to explain the program and initiate the selection process.
  + All five schools have begun the selection process with some schools having already compiled and submitted their list of 20 students who will participate in the program. Selection was completed on November 14th. Formal notification of selection for the program was mailed on November 15th.
  + Each school has been asked to provide a site facilitator with several schools already assigning that role to a staff member. Parent and student orientations are scheduled for the first two weeks of December. Dates for the orientations were finalized by Nov. 14th with several schools already having set dates.
  + The next step in initiating this program is connecting to the business community. This planning is underway.
  + *Key dates:*
* Nov. 14th - All program participants selected; all site facilitators agreed upon; orientation dates set.
* Nov. 15th - Mailing of selection notification and relevant forms to participants.
* Dec. 1st - Dec. 12th - Program orientations for parents/students at each high school.

**Recognition**

The Niswonger Foundation was a recipient of the *2016 Faith in the Future Award.*

**Grant Activity**

* The Investing in Innovation (i3) grant, submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, was not selected for funding.
* Two grant proposals were funded by the Care Foundation of America. (See attached letter from Tom Davenport, President)
  + A request for an additional year of support for the NiswongerCARE college and career advising program in the amount of $650,000. This grant was funded in the amount of $325,000 with the stipulation that equal matching funds be identified.
  + A request to establish NiswongerCARE Online. This three-year grant was approved in the amount of $562,500. This initiative will utilize the success of the Niswonger Online program to serve the most disadvantaged counties in Tennessee, outside the First Congressional District.
* Two grants are in process:
  + Walmart Foundation – A request for $450,000 to be used, over three years, for the *LIFE* Literacy program in Hancock County, and expanding community engagement efforts in Greene and Hancock Counties.
  + Annenberg Foundation – A request for $100,000 to be used to purchase technology and literacy materials for Hancock County and a second school to be identified.

**Niswonger Online and NiswongerCARE Online**

* An overview of Niswonger Consortium fees collected and Niswonger Online registration is included as an attachment to this report.
* 277 students are enrolled in fall semester. The semester ends on Dec 9th, with final grades sent to the schools on Dec 12th.
* Enrollment for spring 2017 has already begun. Early enrollment is at approximately 100. It is anticipated that total spring enrollment will be 400-500 students.
* Over the holiday break, LMS, Moodle, will be updated to the most recent platform. This update will improve teacher and student interaction with the system. Along with the LMS update some of the courses will receive updates. These updates are to ensure alignment with current standards and to improve some assignments for student engagement. The LMS and all courses will be updated by the opening of the spring semester on Jan 18th.
* *NiswongerCARE Online* is now operational. We are currently working with four county schools systems, Claiborne, Lauderdale, Hardeman, and Fentress. These are all rural systems who are in need of a broader curricular offering for their students. Their first online registrations will be spring semester 2017.

**Professional Development Activities**

* Leadership training for first year principals and assistant principals will be held from January 18 to April 21, 2017. Approximately 30 administrators, nominated by their directors will participate in this program. This training includes five face-to-face days on the following topics:
  + Culture and Climate
  + Time Management and Delegation
  + Decision Making
  + Meeting Facilitation
  + Supervision: Formative Assessment
  + Using Data
  + Professional Learning Communities
  + Evaluation: Summative Assessment
  + Recruitment, Staffing, and Working with New Teachers
  + Vision and Leadership
* Leadership for Blended and Digital Learning (LBDL) Cohort I with 33 participants is well underway. The training is in a blended format with an online class component, assignments, and 5 face-to-face sessions.
  + Session 3 was held on Nov 10th.
  + Attendance and participation in the online component have been outstanding. Twelve of the seventeen school districts are represented in the cohort.
  + One of the LBDL principals, Martha Kelly, from Hamblen County, attended the Friday Institute’s *Leading Schools Principal Summit*.

**NiswongerCARE College and Career Advising**

* Nine full-time Advisors and six interns reported to their schools on August 22, 2016 after a full summer of training and professional development.
* A “Delivery of Service” plan was completed at each of the 31 high schools prior to Advisor’s first day of reporting. A school administrator, counselor, Niswonger*CARE* Leadership team member, and Niswonger*CARE* Advisor collaborated to set goals for the year, as well as develop a written service plan to meet each school’s individual needs.
* Each high school agreed to support their Advisor in organizing and hosting four “Path to College” events which include College App Week and FAFSA Frenzy in the fall semester and College Planning Night and College Signing Day in the spring semester.
* Advisors designed a promotional flyer to display in schools and give to students and parents offering their assistance with the myriad of college-going tasks.
* Social media/website outreach to students, parents, and community has been intensified as two Advisors assumed extra duties related to managing our communications through the NiswongerCARE website, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook platforms.
* Each school has provided the Advisor a caseload of students who are receiving ongoing support with college planning, completing college applications, financial aid/ scholarship applications, and transition to post-secondary education.
* The program director and associate directors are preparing to complete mid-term evaluations for all Advisors during November, which will include on-site observations, surveys to each school, review of best practices as documented in portfolios, and review of individual data.

*YTD Data Overview*

* Advisors assisted 840 students in submitting applications to the post-secondary institution of their choice.
* Over 1,300 students were assisted in completing the Tennessee Promise application.
* ACT registration assistance was provided to 823 seniors to take advantage of the additional free testing date offered to current seniors.
* Advisors held over 1,131 individual student meetings to assist with college-going tasks.
* More than 130 group presentations related to preparing for college were delivered to 3,410 students.
* All 31 high schools hosted a College App week event, or have planned one for an alternate week.
* All 31 high schools hosted a FAFSA Frenzy event or have one planned in November.
* Over 2000 seniors have submitted FAFSA’s since the October 1 opening date.

*Training/Professional Development*:

* Monthly staff meetings were held in August, September, and October with a format that includes sessions to provide information, professional and personal development, and a hands-on work session that allows Advisors to share and collaborate on upcoming projects and best practices.
* All Advisors and Program Directors attended the Tennessee School Counselors and Administrators Conference in Murfreesboro.

**Dictionary Project**

* Over 800 dictionaries were provided to third graders in Greene County and Greeneville City Schools. Barbara oversees this project.

**Upcoming Site Visitors**

* Friday, November 18 - Stephanie Baird, Interim President, Great Schools Partnership; and Scott Broyles of Leadership Tennessee have asked to do a site visit regarding the LIFE literacy program.
* Thursday, December 1- The Scarlett Family Foundation representatives Tara Scarlett, President and CEO; and Tom Parrish, Chief Operating Officer, will visit in an effort to learn about best practices in improving rural education.
* Tuesday, December 13 – Thursday, December 15, Annenberg Foundation and Rural Schools and Community Trust will conduct a site visit of the Greene County LIFE project, Hancock County Elementary School, and Carter’s Valley Elementary School (Hawkins County).

**Boards, Committees and Meetings**

* On August 16, Nancy attended the SCORE Steering Committee, in Nashville.
* On August 16 - 17, Nancy attended the *Tennessee Learning Circle*, conducted by the Gates Foundation, in Nashville.
* Nancy and Gina met with the Care Foundation of America on August 26, in Nashville.
* Nancy, Dr. Claude Pressnell and Mike Ragsdale met with the newly appointed President of King College, Alexander Whitaker on November 8, at King College.
* Nancy gave a presentation on rural education at the Philanthropy Roundtable’s National Conference on K-12 Education, in Silicon Valley, California, on September 14.
* Vivian and Nancy gave a presentation at the *National Rural Education Association* Conference in Columbus, Ohio on October 13-15.
* Scott and Nancy attended the Tusculum College Board of Trustees meeting on October 20-21.
* Nancy attended the Board meeting for the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association on October 26, in Nashville.
* Nancy attended a Tennessee Higher Education Work Session on October 31, in Nashville.
* Scott and Nancy attended the Niswonger Children’s Hospital Executive Board meeting on November 2.
* Nancy was the speaker for the Andrew Johnson Club on November 8.
* Richard and Vivian hosted CORE Office Director, Mia Hyde for discussions and updates on November 8.
* Vivian and Richard attended and reported at the Superintendent’s Study Council on October 19.
* iNACOL was attended by Vivian Franklin, Gina Pavlovich, David Freeman, Hamblin County Instructional Coach, and Tina Foust, Hawkins County Instructional Coach. The conference theme was Leading Personalized Instruction.
* Chuckey-Doak High School principal, Shelly Smith, invited Vivian to be a member of their newly formed leadership team. The mission and vision are currently being developed.
* Nancy has been asked by Congressman Roe to serve on the selection committee to review and select the Congressional nominees to the four military academies.

**Publicity and Publications**

* News clippings and press releases are available for review.
* The *Niswonger News* was provided in e-news format for the first time this month.
* The new *Directory of Scholars* has been printed and mailed.

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| **Niswonger Online** |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Spring 2016** | |  | **Summer 2016** |  | **Fall 2016** |
| County Served | Seats | $ | | Seats | $ | Seats | $ |
| Carter County | 20 | $ 2,900.00 | | 24 | $ 3,480.00 | 53 | $ 7,685.00 |
| Cocke County | 17 | $ 2,465.00 | | 11 | $ 1,595.00 | 12 | $ 1,740.00 |
| Elizabethton |  |  | | 4 | $ 580.00 |  |  |
| Greene County | 112 | $ 16,240.00 | | 36 | $ 5,220.00 | 43 | $ 6,235.00 |
| Greeneville City |  |  | | 151 | $ 21,895.00 |  |  |
| Hamblen County | 18 | $ 2,610.00 | | 75 | $ 10,875.00 | 19 | $ 2,755.00 |
| Hancock County | 2 | $ 290.00 | |  |  |  |  |
| Hawkins County | 14 | $ 2,030.00 | | 10 | $ 1,450.00 | 7 | $ 1,015.00 |
| Jefferson County | 145 | $ 6,380.00 | |  |  | 26 | $ 3,770.00 |
| Johnson County | 10 | $ 1,450.00 | |  |  | 14 | $ 2,030.00 |
| Johnson City | 48 | $ 6,960.00 | | 192 | $ 27,840.00 | 24 | $ 3,480.00 |
| Kingsport City | 7 | $ 1,015.00 | | 7 | $ 1,015.00 | 3 | $ 435.00 |
| Sullivan County | 103 | $ 14,935.00 | | 16 | $ 2,320.00 | 7 | $ 1,015.00 |
| Unicoi County | 14 | $ 2,030.00 | | 30 | $ 4,350.00 | 12 | $ 1,740.00 |
| Washington County | 28 | $ 4,060.00 | | 137 | $ 19,865.00 | 51 | $ 7,395.00 |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | **538** | **$ 63,365.00** | | **693** | **$ 100,485.00** | **271** | **$ 39,295.00** |
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|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
| **Niswonger Consortium 2016-2017** | | | |  |  |  |  |
| District | $ | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hancock | $ 1,600.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Johnson County | $ 1,600.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Elizabethton | $ 1,600.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unicoi | $ 1,600.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greeneville City | $ 1,600.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bristol City | $ 3,500.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cocke County | $ 3,500.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carter County | $ 3,500.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kingsport City | $ 3,500.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greene County | $ 3,500.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hawkins County | $ 4,800.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Johnson City | $ 4,800.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Washington County | $ 4,800.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hamblen County | $ 4,800.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sullivan County | $ 4,800.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jefferson County | $ 4,800.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Niswonger Foundation | $ 4,800.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Consortium** | **$59,100.00** | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Online** | **$203,145.00** | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **$262,245.00** | |  |  |  |  |  |