

**Programs and Partnerships
Niswonger Foundation Board Update
Friday, May 6, 2022**

Consortium Projects

- *Learning Together Day* is being planned for the second year, for Friday, October 28, 2022. Over 4000 educators, representing eleven school districts and ETSU's University School, will be provided professional development in their specific disciplines at eleven sites across the region. Food City has joined as a sponsor of the event. Dr. Mia Hyde, Dr. Debra Bentley and Barbara Bates are leading the planning process for the Niswonger Foundation. All Niswonger team members are providing support for this exceptional undertaking.

School Program Updates

Rural LIFE (2018 US DOE / EIR Grant)

- The school-support phase of Rural LIFE is ending in June. The grant has served approximately 70 schools in East Tennessee over the last 4 years via a shared services network model.
- Key components of the work have included ongoing professional learning and job-embedded coaching for principals and teacher leaders, funding for literacy and personalized learning improvement projects, and continued school and district support through sustainability grants in the second half of the project.
- Integral to the success of the grant, Rural LIFE's literacy coaches have guided school teams in crafting personalized literacy action plans, modeled effective instructional strategies, and facilitated one-on-one or small group coaching cycles. Most of Rural LIFE's 8 literacy coaches, who were on loan from a local school district, will return to their home districts in July and will continue to champion improved literacy instruction through personalized learning.
- The multi-layered design of the grant's support has also positioned each school team's administrators and teacher leaders to spread and sustain their team's Rural LIFE work to additional grade levels as well as district wide.
- From July until March 2023, the Rural LIFE team will be engaged in the dissemination phase of the grant, including articulating lessons learned, presenting at regional/national conferences, and curating materials for continued school/district use around effective practices in literacy and personalized learning.
- Save the Date: The Niswonger Foundation invites ALL K-12 teachers (all subject areas) and leaders to attend *Reflect & Connect: Rural LIFE Summer Institute 2022* from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 22, at Grandview Elementary School. Teams of Rural LIFE teachers, leaders, and coaches will present sessions rooted in their own first-hand experiences utilizing personalized learning strategies in the classroom, leveraging professional learning to improve instruction, and building organizational capacity to sustain effective practices.





- This fall we will host a leader-specific learning series with our partner TNTP focused on building a shared vision for excellent literacy instruction at the secondary level (grades 5-12). The session will center on practical steps secondary leaders can take to support their teachers who attend the TDOE secondary literacy training this summer. The 4-part series will conclude at our regional Learning Together Day in October.

New Teacher Center Instructional Coaching project (2019 US DOE / EIR Partnership Grant)

- Five districts are interested in participating with Education Resource Strategies (ERS). Dr. Sharon Roberts from TN SCORE was instrumental in this process. ERS will support districts in thinking about how they are using ESSER money to reach their end goal and what resources they will need to meet their end goal.
- Participated in National Program Leader Network NPLN in January and will be in person with the other EIR - PLC teams in Houston during the first week of May to connect to the NPLN in a deeper way and share artifacts of practice as well as current successes and challenges facing the EIR PLC sites.
- Monthly in-field coaching was provided to lead coaches and the program lead to reflect and advance coaching practice at all levels of the project from program leader to lead coach to district and school based coaches as well as teachers.
- Current focus is on building participating districts' capacity to implement, sustain and scale a cost-effective and high-quality instructional coaching model in 1:1 and team settings. This includes strengthening educator practices to address the needs of every learner with attention to equity as well as continuous academic and social-emotional growth.
- Allison and Lead Coaches will attend Presenters Institute with NTC this summer. They will be co-facilitating the 2022 Summer Coaches Training and the monthly forums for school and district coaches. Lead coaches are helping build the capacity of coaches to lead PLCs. Some are district PLCs and some are school PLCs.

The following represents the time spent on our database. This does not reflect the hours spent in schools or meeting with teachers and administrators via Zoom.

Interactions

Item	Usage	Total	Percentages
Time on Teachers	334	14656 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1 100% - 14656 mins Group 0% - 0 mins 
Foundational Tools	148	6328 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1 100% - 6328 mins Group 0% - 0 mins 
High-Leverage Tools	112	4706 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1 100% - 4706 mins Group 0% - 0 mins 
My Time	115	10143 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach Work 90% - 9115 mins SL/Admin 10% - 1028 mins 

STEM.LD (2020 US DOE / EIR Grant)

District and School Participation

- 17 Districts (New districts included to increase number of schools: Anderson County, Union County, Oneida Special School District, Grainger County, and Claiborne County)
- Cohort 1: 12 high schools, 14 middle schools (treatment), 14 middle schools (control)
- Cohort 2: 8 high schools, 6 middle schools (treatment), 6 middle schools (control)
- 40 schools currently receiving treatment
- By the end of the grant 60 schools will have been served

Cohort 1 Update

- 98% overall completion of orientation training
- Monthly meetings with school representatives to prepare to extend existing partnerships and establish new partnerships working toward 80% teacher engagement
- All cohort 1 schools have selected partners for year 2 (2022-2023), and most are entering into more partnerships than in year 1.

Cohort 2 Update

- Onboarding meetings have been conducted with each school in cohort 2 – most were held in person.
- Cohort 2 schools are in the process of completing orientation training.
- 13/14 cohort 2 schools have selected partners for their first year (2022-2023).

Partners

- Showcases were completed in February and schools reported that this process helped them to make good, informed decisions about their partnerships.
- The first Hammer Build was held on the Niswonger Campus of WSCC. This event was successful and demonstrates a great partnership between WSCC and If I Had A Hammer.
- Streamworks held the Robot Drone League competition at ETSU in March. Two STEM.LD partner schools, Volunteer High School and Chuckey Doak High School, competed with great success. Neither of these schools had robotics teams prior to STEM.LD. Volunteer was the top scorer for the day, and Chuckey Doak was second in the top score category.
 - Volunteer: 3rd in Professor Award; Top Rookie Award; 1st in Top Score Award; 2nd in Champions Award
 - Chuckey Doak: 3rd in Engineering Award; 2nd in Top Score Award; 3rd in Champions Award
- ETSU’s Governor’s School will feature BioBuilders this summer. This is another great STEM.LD partnership.

Other Updates

- APR completed and successfully submitted for year 1
- The STEM.LD team is visiting schools this spring to better understand each school’s plans and needs. Importantly, they will receive feedback on year one. So far 8/30 visits have been completed.
- TNTP is also using a “lessons learned“ process to develop three focuses of action for the coming year: core training, student engagement, and community engagement.
- Schools and partners to date are shown in the following table:

Partnerships Cohorts 1 and 2, Year 2 (With 39/40 schools reporting)

TNTP Science	TNTP Math	UAH	Hammer	Purdue	ETSU	Bio-Builders	Stream-works	Civil Air Patrol	WSCC	NESCC
White Pine	White Pine	Oneida HS	South Greene HS	Sullivan East MS	Oneida HS	Oneida HS	South Greene HS	Clinton MS	Oneida HS	Hampton Elem.
Clinton MS	Maury MS	Cosby HS	Hampton Elem.	Cosby HS	Cosby HS	Cosby HS	Sullivan East HS	Cosby HS	Cosby HS	Sulphur Springs
Hancock MS	Happy Valley MS	Norris MS	Cosby HS	Union Co. HS	Sulphur Springs	Washburn	Sulphur Springs	Sulphur Springs	West Greene HS	Unicoi County HS
Maury MS	Del Rio	Grainger HS	Sulphur Springs	Greeneville HS	Daniel Boone HS	Sullivan East HS	Grainger HS	Grainger HS	Bulls Gap	
Norris MS	HY Livesay	Volunteer HS	Daniel Boone HS	Unaka HS	Ridgeview	Grainger HS	Union Co. HS	Del Rio	Volunteer HS	
Lake City MS	Johnson County MS	Unaka HS	Norris MS	Cocke Co.HS	Volunteer HS	Volunteer HS	Volunteer HS	Cosby Elem.	Oneida MS	
Greeneville MS	Clinch	Unicoi County HS	West Greene HS	North Greene HS	Union Co. HS	Del Rio	Cosby Elem.	Sullivan Heights MS		
Del Rio	Jefferson	Oneida	Grainger	Oneida MS	Cocke Co.	Greeneville	Unaka HS	Johnson		

		MS	HS		HS	HS		Co. HS		
HY Livesay		Clinch	Greeneville MS	Unicoi Co. HS	Unicoi County HS	Cherokee HS	Sullivan Heights MS			
Johnson County MS		Daniel Boone HS	Volunteer HS	Union Co. HS	Union Co. HS	Union Co. HS	Cherokee HS			
Sullivan Heights MS			Cosby Elem.			Johnson Co. HS	Chuckey Doak HS			
			North Greene HS				Clinch			
			Unicoi County HS				Union Co. HS			
			Oneida MS							
			Unaka HS							
			Washburn HS							
			Clinch							
			Johnson Co. HS							
			Sullivan Heights MS							

Project On-Track (2021 Care Foundation of America Grant and 2021 Ballard Health Grant)

- In the first year of operation, Project On-Track has served over 2500 students in various delivery models of high dosage/low ratio tutoring in English language arts.
- Dr. Bentley has scheduled meetings with each district partner/agency to develop summer tutoring plans. Bristol City Schools has most recently joined the summer tutoring program and will implement Project On-Track during their learning camp.
- Estimated number of summer sites is 21 with a plan to serve at least 1000 students in June and July. In addition to English language arts, the program will add mathematics beginning with summer 2022.
- Through university partnerships, three informational meetings were held in late March to recruit college students to serve as Project On-Track tutors beginning this summer. Twelve students completed the interest inventory. Sullivan County Schools and Coalition For Kids have selected some of these students to serve as tutors this summer.
- Project On-Track’s training of tutors has been re-designed to be delivered both synchronously and asynchronously. The six-hour training will be 50% live training and 50% working through mCLASS Intervention and Amplify Reading modules independently. In preparation for summer delivery, trainings will be led by current site coordinators and tutors, beginning on May 2.
- Project On-Track has been selected by Amplify to take part in their new marketing campaign. The project will be showcased as an exemplary high-dosage tutoring program which uses their instructional materials. A crew will be visiting two project sites on May 10-11 to film tutoring sessions and interview tutors, students, and school administrators.

NiswongerCARE College and Career Advising (2021 Tennessee Department of Education Grant)

- TN College and Career Planning Night and TN Signing Day are planned in all 28 high schools.
- Advisors held 40 FAFSA Frenzy events in their schools to assist parents and students. Our schools' FAFSA completion for current seniors is 70% compared to the state rate of 64% and the national rate of 45%.
- Summer melt programming enrollment is underway with 375 seniors already signed up to receive assistance throughout the summer after graduation.
- Signal Vine Messaging platform has 2,095 seniors enrolled to receive important reminders, ask questions, and receive support through text messaging.
- Social Media Coordinator, Advisor Emily Emerick, created 140 Facebook posts, 168 tweets, and 298 Instagram stories with reach and impressions exceeding 100,000 since July 2021.
- End of year stakeholder surveys were sent to all site facilitators and school principals requesting feedback on Advisor performance and impact of program initiatives. Results will be analyzed when all surveys are received, and program modifications will be initiated accordingly.

Niswonger Online (Funded by Niswonger Consortium of School Districts)

- Teachers and administrators are providing support to over 1200 students as they complete their spring semester and year-long classes.
- Catherine Edwards has been hired part-time as Supervisor for Student Success. Catherine brings great expertise and knowledge to our team as a retired high school principal who used Niswonger Online with her students. She previously served the Niswonger Foundation as a coach with the Rural LIFE grant.
- Enrollment for Summer 2022 and Fall 2022 semesters opened on March 1.
- Preparations are underway for the Summer 2022 semester: June 6-July 29. We had 200 students each of the last two summers. We are hopeful that enrollments will be at least the same or more for Summer 2022.
- Several courses will be updated or re-created ahead of the Fall 2022 semester: U.S. Government, General Music, Spanish III, Lifetime Wellness.
- We are working with STEM.LD to offer online math, science, and CTE courses to students in grades 8-12 at STEM.LD treatment schools for Fall 2022. Seat fees will be covered by STEM.LD grant funds. Some of these schools have worked with Niswonger Online in the past, others are new to our program.
- Preparations are being made to better support our eighth grade enrichment students by offering a year-long schedule rather than a semester-long pace. We hope to have eighth grade students in Personal Finance, Algebra I, and Health Science Education.
- Changes to the affiliate member pay schedule will allow us to better serve small schools. Instead of a flat affiliate membership fee, we will charge small, medium, and large schools a different fee. This is like the graduated fees scale we use for our Consortium schools. We have also set aside Care Foundation money to cover

up to 75 seats for each school who signs on to partner with Niswonger Online for the first time in the 2022-23 school year. There are several small schools that have reached out to us after a positive experience with the AP Access For All programs. We hope to partner with several new districts for the fall semester.

AP Access for All (2021 Tennessee Department of Education Partnership Contract)

- 113 school systems are fully onboard with AP Access for All ~89% of all public, k-12, systems in Tennessee.
- 29 of these systems are located in At-Risk or Distressed Counties - representing 81% of all AR/Dis Counties.
- 45 of these systems are rural - representing 85% of all rural areas.
- Our second data report (the APAA Spring Impact Report) was completed and can be found here- https://drive.google.com/file/d/11M3Nly5vbcd-fv04TFUnA54_Sz0KXeUK/view?usp=sharing
- Total APAA enrollment for this school year was 1806. This is below our goal of 2,000 but only because we could not find all the teachers needed in AP Psychology, AP Art History, and AP Computer Science. Almost 200 students who wanted an AP course with us could not be seated due to these teacher shortages. We are hopeful that this will not be an issue next year after training teachers through APSI this summer
- The estimate is that around 1200 students will earn the APAA credit and sit for the AP Exam.
- Angela Taylor led monthly AP Cohort meetings for AP teachers across the state. She also produced an AP Review video for students that provided many useful resources for AP students as they prepare to take their AP tests.
- AP Spanish is currently being developed for Fall 2022.
- A team of 3 teachers were hired to develop AP Physics 1, which will be offered in the Fall of 2022.
- Each course has been reviewed by three teachers and they are currently sharing their feedback in meetings with the administrative team. Information from each course review will be used for making edits/updates to each course before the fall 2022 school year.
- There are currently 515 teachers that are registered to attend an AP Summer Institute in June or July at UTC, Rice University, or the University of South Florida.
- Regional Relationship Specialists (RRS) are distributing the Achievement pins to schools for each student who participated in our program this year.
- Forms will be sent by RRS to all Principals to designate liaisons for the next school year. This will be an opportunity for the RRS to have discussions about the importance of having an effective liaison in the schools. RRS will visit all schools, especially focusing on meetings with schools who are onboard but have not enrolled students or school systems that are not on board
- In May, APAA awarded over 50 grants for AP teachers across the state that will enhance their current AP programs and schools. There was interest from over 270

- teachers in the mini grant program. All other 7 regions showed interest and submitted applications.
- A YouTube channel is being developed for APAA and Niswonger Online. This will have pertinent videos and news coverage for teachers, students, and liaisons as well as any interested individuals.
 - CRISP is working to develop our following on social media platforms and share pertinent information with all stakeholders throughout the state.
 - Please follow us and share:
Website- tnapaccessforall.org
 - <https://www.facebook.com/apaccessforall>
 - <https://twitter.com/apaccessforall>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/apaccessforall/>
 - A trifold brochure has been developed that is an overview of our program and is being shared across the state. Flyers that focus on AP+DE=Success have been developed and are being shared across the state. We will continue to share this mindset with all high schools and also all colleges and universities. We want the AP program and the DE program to be seen as partners that work together to help students. Not as competitors.
 - Flyers to be given to 8th grade counselors that promote AP courses that work for 9th graders have been created and shared.
 - Small banners and a table runner have been created for RRS to use as they travel to school parent nights and other events.
 - CRISP and Wendi - Continual modifications and updates of the website to make sure all information is pertinent and easily accessible.
 - Planning for Summer 2022 includes: new teacher recruitment and training; course updates; program updates, budget updates; MOU updates for liaisons and teachers; signing of year-two MOUs by all stakeholders; and looking ahead to sustainability (budget, program changes)
 - Our first face-to-face meeting with all Regional Relationship Specialists took place in Nashville TN the first week of April.
 - The APAA team along with a TDOE rep and TBR rep will be presenting at the CTE Conference in Chattanooga in July.
 - Due to COVID, there were no conferences this first year of the grant. The APAA team will be making up for that in the second year and are already planning on attending five. Proposals has been submitted to present at three of these.

Comprehensive Educational Resources (Funded by Niswonger Consortium of School Districts)

- The next school year is in planning stages. Curriculum teams will be expanded to include science and social studies for grades K-2, Biology 2, Physical Science, and 6-12 English language arts writing support.
- A new teacher-led team will be created to develop common formative assessment to be shared across CER districts. The first stage of this plan will be for grade three- end of course assessment (EOC) in math, science, and Social Studies.
- Hardin County recently joined the CER team.

CareerConnect

- The Class of 2022 are ending their time on a strong note. Out of our seniors, we have an 89% post-secondary enrollment rate. The remaining 11% are heading straight into the workforce. This graduating class has a high number of students who want to go into healthcare, specifically nursing.
- We are preparing for an expansion pilot project. With approved State funding, we will be moving into Carter and Washington County schools to present a condensed, one-year version of CareerConnect to high school juniors. We recently met with Superintendents to discuss the project and are moving forward gathering key stakeholders to have additional conversations. We are excited to kick this off next year!
- We have finished selection for the Class of 2025 in Greene County and Greeneville City and will be onboarding them before the end of school.
- Preparations are being made for Summer Experience. Rising senior camp will be June 6-17 and rising junior camp will be July 11-22.

WE Track and Work Ethic Distinction

- **Legislation (HB 1840, SB 1776) has become public chapter (Pub Ch. 702); students earning the Work Ethic Distinction becoming Tri-Star Scholars is officially Tennessee state law.**
- The new distinction will be used in marketing to potential student participants.
- Activity has increased as we approach graduation. Effects of new, more stringent requirements are apparent. From 4000+ participants with a 40% completion rate to ~2700 participants with a ~7.5% completion rate. While this is a drastic change, it reflects quality enhancement. There will be a review and consideration of next steps for evaluating effects of WED changes, likely by reconvening statewide working group.
- Early discussions have begun with Tennessee Department of Labor on an adult focused WED sister program.

Grant Activity

- A grant was submitted to the Tennessee Department of Education for the TN ALL Corps Partnership Program. This is a \$7 million dollar/30 month grant to support and expand Project On Track (high dosage/low ratio ELA and math tutoring).
- A U.S. Congressional Earmark Grant submitted in 2021 was awarded to the Niswonger Foundation in the amount of \$345,000. This will be used in support of Project On Track.
- A \$45,000 grant was submitted to the Food City Corporate Offices to support Learning Together Day. We have received approval of this grant request.
- Three Gubernatorial Direct Appropriation grants are awaiting final approval from the Tennessee Legislature as the budget is being finalized:
 - \$760,000 to fully support Niswonger CARE College and Career Advising

- \$200,000 in matching funds for the STEM LD USDOE Grant
- \$450,000 to fully support CareerConnect in Greene County and Greeneville City; and expansion of CareerConnect pilot programs in Washington County and Carter County school districts.
- USDOE 2022 EIR Grant Competition – Writing has begun on our next application. Submission deadline is June 21. We will be submitting an \$8 million request for the establishment of Early College/Credentialing opportunities.

Charitable Contributions (Feb-May 2022)

Care Foundation of America	\$ 525,000.00
Scott Niswonger	\$ 200,000.00
Gayle and Steve Caldwell	\$ 500.00
Bronson Winters	\$ 3,000.00
John M. Nichols Family	\$ 15,000.00
 Total	 \$ 743,500.00