

OUTREACH INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDING: END-OF-YEAR PROJECT REPORT

Title of Proposal: Focus on Children's Literature Conference / Library of the Early Mind

Your Name: Ken Wise Project Date: April 2, 2011

Additional project support received from other university or external sources:

Source	Amount	Title
<u>R01-6011-049</u>	<u>\$3500</u>	<u>Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature</u>
<u>R01-6011-045</u>	<u>\$1000</u>	<u>Pi Beta Phi Endowment Fund</u>
<u>R01-6011-084</u>	<u>\$ 450</u>	<u>Alline Salmons McConkey Endowment Fund</u>
<u>In-kind support</u>		<u>Knox County Public Library</u>

Please use this sheet to answer each of the following questions about your project (1-2 pp total)

1. **ASSESSMENT:** How did this project document or assess its engagement with the community?

The project had a record of the number of paid registrants for the conference (200). Evaluation and feedback forms were collected from the attendees at the conclusion of the conference.

2. **PARTNERSHIP/RECIPROCITY:** How did the university and community work together?

The conference was planned and executed by members of the board of the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature. This board is composed of faculty from various academic department at the University of Tennessee as well as teachers and librarians from local public and private schools. The board is also represented by the librarian of the Children's Defense Fund and the Knox County Public Library which also helped promote the event.

3. **BENEFITS:** What were the benefits (University/community) of this partnership?

The attendees were exposed to a documentary film and a group of talented and well-informed authors of children's literature discussing controversial elements on the influence of children's literature on the minds of children. For attendees from the K-12 teaching and school librarian community, the conference was a valuable resource for exposure to current issues and for their professional development needs. The conference also provided the university academic community an opportunity to interact with the local teaching community on controversial issues that are of current importance to the study of children's and young adult literature.

4. **SHARED DECISION-MAKING:** Did the community have a "voice" or role for input into this project?

The decision to host the conference as well as the theme and content of the conference were determined by the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature. The Center consists of a director and a governing board which in part is composed of teachers and librarians from local public and private schools. In this particular project, the non-university community exercised the preponderance of thematic input, decision making, and implementation.

5. **SCHOLARSHIP:** Are there any examples of faculty scholarship that will be informed by this project?

Faculty scholarship has generally not been a major by-product of programs sponsored by the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature. None of the board is aware of any specific scholarship being either informed or generated by this conference.

6. **CONCLUSIONS:** What conclusions and best practices can be drawn from the partnership?

The Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature has a long history of successful partnerships with a variety of community organizations. Partnership efforts engage in mutually beneficial projects and programs that meet the needs and demands of the K-12 classroom teacher and librarian while elevating the perception of children's and young adult literature to a level of serious scholarship. This most recent effort confirms that the Center partnership arrangement is effective and that the Center is good at what it does.

7. **FUTURE PLANS:** What are the future plans for this partnership?

The Center partnership has been in existence for more than a decade. During this time the participants have engaged in more than fifty projects and programs that include non-university partners. For the future, the board intends to expand the scope of the Center's outreach mission by seeking more involvement in the under-represented and under-served communities as well as build on old and new partnership arrangements.