NCTE Research Foundation

The Research Foundation provides financial support for research in English instruction (http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation).

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2012?

1. Revision of NCTE Research Foundation Guidelines:

This year, the Trustees worked to revise, update, and clarify the Research Foundation guidelines (attached to this report). In particular, we clarified:

- The organization and layout of the guidelines
- The description of the Awarding of Foundation Funds
- The selection process and criteria for the selection of Trustees to include the statement about diversity explained in #2 below as well as the following statement about the inclusion of teacher researchers as members of the Board of Trustees:

  To ensure that there is always a classroom teacher on the Board of Trustees, if one of the elected positions is not filled by a classroom teacher, the Board of Trustees will select a classroom teacher to fill at least one of the two appointed positions.

2. Development of document to guide NCTE’s Nominating Committee in developing slate of nominees for new Trustees:

This year the Trustees of the Research Foundation developed a one-page document titled Board of Trustees of the Research Foundation: Guidance for the NCTE Nominating Committee. This was created in response to the concern that the NCTE Nominating Committee typically has limited knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of the Trustees of the Research Foundation and about the programs supported by the Foundation (particularly, the Research Grants program and the Cultivating New Voices of Scholars of Color – CNV - program) and yet the Nominating Committee is charged with developing a slate of nominees who fit the position.

After collaboration and discussion as a Board and with NCTE’s Executive Director and our staff liaison, we developed a concise yet focused document that to provide clarity and detail for Nominating Committees. We created a link to this document on the Research Foundation webpage under “Info for the Nominating Committee” (http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation/grants/nominating). Susi Long, as Chair of the Board of Trustees, also sent a copy of the document to this year’s Nominating Committee Chair, Robert Petrone, and offered to meet with the Nominating Committee at the annual convention in Boston to provide any further clarification that may be necessary.

Included in the document are the following components:

- A request for the Nominating Committee to ensure a consistently diverse Board of Trustees (at least half of the Board representing members of racially, ethnically, and/or linguistically marginalized groups) and a plan for accomplishing that goal.
- A list of criteria for nominees for the Board of Trustees.
- A list of the responsibilities of the Trustees
- Descriptions of the Research Foundation’s Grant and CNV programs.

3. Revision of Research Foundation Activities and Responsibilities

The Trustees revised this document: updated, clarified and made it consistent with all other documents (http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/elections/jobdescripts/restrustees).

4. Revision/Reorganization of Research Foundation Website

The Trustees with the support of our NCTE staff liaison, Sue Gallivan, revised and redesigned the Research Foundation website (http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation) to update and clarify information and to provide more accessible links to that information. The website links now include:
5. Research Foundation Grant Program:

This year, the Trustees engaged in several activities related to the grants program. Much of our work was to ensure that the grant information and proposal formats/requirements are clear and as accessible to teacher researchers as they are to university researchers. To accomplish this, we:

- Revised, updated, and clarified the “Foundation Grants” link on the Research Foundation website: (http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation/grants)
- Revised updated, and clarified the Grant Proposal format (http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation/grants)
- Revised, updated, and clarified the Interim and Final Grant Report formats (http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation/grants/reports)

This year, the Foundation reviewed 15 grant proposals and awarded four grants ensuring that at least one grant was awarded to a teacher researcher.

6. Support for Cultivating New Voices of Scholars of Color (CNV) Program:

The Trustees engaged in discussions about CNV as a major contributor to the field of literacy research and to the Council through CNV’s support of scholars of color and research that addresses issues of marginalized and minoritized groups across the country. In existence for thirteen years, the program has had a remarkable impact in the field of literacy education as well as in the lives of its fellows and mentors and the Council (http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation/cnv/past) with an extraordinary range of publications, presentations, and work in schools of education across the country - widely respected as some of the best work in the field. The Trustees discussed strategies for supporting greater visibility for CNV within the Council so that these insights, accomplishments, and scholarship can be heard widely within as well as beyond the organization. These efforts are ongoing. In the past year, the Research Foundation has supported CNV in initiating the following strategies:

- The Trustees attended the closing morning session of the CNV winter institute (2013) in Seattle giving Trustees a deeper understanding of the work of CNV so that can provide informed support. The Trustees’ winter meeting was held the same day following the CNV closing session.
- The Trustees supported CNV’s collaboration with NCTE’s Executive Council to plan for a “CNV and Friends” reception to be held after the Opening General Session of the Boston convention.
- The Research Foundation purchased (for Trustees and current CNV fellows and mentors), copies of Urban Literacies: Critical Perspectives on Language, Learning, and Community, a collection edited by former CNV fellow and current CNV Director, Valerie Kinloch, that includes research chapters written by CNV fellows and mentors with royalties going to support CNV program.

What projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?

- We will continue to refine the grant review process (we will discuss the development of a more detailed grant proposal evaluation rubric at our November 2014 meeting).
- We are working to develop a system of feedback for research proposals and reports submitted as grantees complete their studies.
- We will continue to develop support mechanisms for the Cultivating New Voices of Color program so that the ongoing work of the program can be widely disseminated to the general NCTE membership particularly through more visible convention events.

Susi Long, Chair