Research Foundation

The purpose of the Research Foundation is to improve the quality of instruction in English at all educational levels; to encourage research experimentation, and investigation in the teaching of English; to facilitate professional cooperation of the members; to hold public discussions and programs; to sponsor the publication of desirable articles and reports; and to integrate the improvement of instruction in English. (NCTE Constitution)

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2013?

Major actions taken by the Research Foundation from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 are:

1. **CNV/Executive Committee Reception**: With NCTE’s Executive Committee, the Research Foundation co-sponsored the first annual *CNV and Friends* reception following the opening session of the 2013 convention. The purpose was to honor the work of CNV and its impact on the organization and the field of literacy education and to thank the NCTE leaders who supported it through the years.

2. **Annual CNV and Friends Reception**: The Research Foundation voted to contribute $2,000 annually to the joint funding (with NCTE’s Executive Committee) of an Annual CNV and Friends Reception.

3. **Urban Literacies**: Copies of the edited collection of research papers from past and present CNV scholars (*Urban Literacies*) were provided for each member of the Board of Trustees as an example of the scholarly impact of CNV.

4. **Honoring Dr. Kinloch/Welcoming Dr. Guerra**: We celebrated Dr. Valerie Kinloch’s years as the Director of CNV as she stepped down and Dr. Juan Guerra moved into that role. Dr. Kinloch’s commitment and contributions to CNV have shaped the direction and impact of CNV over the years. Under her leadership, we watched the program continue its growth as a network of literacy educators that has unparalleled impact across the country. We are grateful to Dr. Kinloch for her years of devoted service and welcome Dr. Guerra into the CNV directorship.

5. **Research Foundation Grant Writing Session**: To provide support for teachers and other researchers seeking RF funding for research projects, the Research Foundation submitted a proposal for a grant writing session that was accepted for the 2014 convention. At this session, representatives from the Board of Trustees will share grant-writing tips and explain the process of submitting a proposal for an RF grant.

6. **Adding Funding for Research Grants and CNV**: The Research Foundation requested an additional 1% in funding from NCTE to support the addition of two more CNV fellows/mentors and additional funding for research grants. After discussions with NCTE’s Executive Director, we decided on an alternative measure: For 2014-2016, we are drawing $15,000 from RF funds to add (a) two CNV scholars and mentors to the CNV program (for a total of 14 fellows and 14 mentors) and (b) $5,000 to the amount we will spend in 2015 for research grants. This is a temporary solution while the Board of Trustees seeks other avenues for funding. This decision was made because: (a) the numbers of CNV fellows/mentors has not been increased for many years even though the suggestion for such an increase has been on the table for several years and the impact of the program on NCTE and the field of literacy education is widely acknowledged, and (b) this year we will provide a grant writing support session at NCTE’s annual convention and therefore anticipate more grant proposals than typically received.

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

1. **Funding**: Over the next two years, the Board of Trustees will engage in discussions to (a) explore possibilities for obtaining funding to sustain 14-member CNV cohorts (as opposed to reverting to 12-member cohorts) and (b) explore options for obtaining additional funding to increase amounts available for research grants.
2. **Updating guidelines:** The Research Foundation is in the process of updating RF guidelines. The intention is to complete and approve these guidelines before or at the 2014 convention.

3. **Updating rubrics:** The Research Foundation is in the process of revising the rubrics used to evaluate applicants for CNV and applicants for RF research proposals. The intention is to complete and approve these rubrics before or at the 2014 convention.

**Strategic Governance and Council Initiatives:** Over the past few years, NCTE has established the National Center for Literacy Education (NCLE) to study the conditions for literacy teaching and learning and to advance collaboration and inquiry among educators teaching literacy in all disciplines. The Council has also done extensive work on formative assessment and how teacher knowledge is or isn’t being tapped as new standards are being implemented.

**How do you see the work of your group contributing to or benefiting from these initiatives?**

The Trustees of the Research Foundation have had discussions in the past year about the importance of supporting teacher-researchers in particular. Toward this end the Reading Foundation supports the study of literacy teaching and learning and advances collaboration and inquiry in a variety of ways:

- Ensuring that the Board of Trustees always includes at least one teacher researcher (the incoming Board will include two teacher-researchers).
- Conducting a session at the annual convention to support teacher researchers (and other researchers) in preparing and submitting grant proposals to the Research Foundation.
- Raising the amount of funding for research grants.
- Revising the rubric used to evaluate research grants to include identification of teacher researchers.
- Ongoing support for Cultivating New Voices Among Scholars of Color which:
  - Has evolved to become the nation’s foremost network for literacy scholars of color working in schools and higher education institutions across the country; CNV scholars (past and present fellows and mentors) are making significant changes in literacy education through their leadership positions, publications, presentations, and teaching within NCTE and in institutions across the country.
  - Inspired a new program instituted by NCTE’s Early Childhood Education Assembly – Professional Dyads and Culturally Relevant Teaching (PDCRT). The purpose of this program is to advance culturally relevant pedagogies through collaboration and inquiry among early childhood teacher educators and classroom teachers of color. While PDCRT is not directly supported by the Research Foundation, it is an important example of how RF’s support for CNV has far-reaching consequences aligned with the tenets of NCLE.

**What additional information do you need about these topics or initiatives?**

None at this time.

[http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation](http://www.ncte.org/research-foundation)

*Susi Long, Chair*