

GATHERING IDEAS 2009
09-GI-007

Project Name: Reading Together

Library, group, or person submitting proposal Bellevue Community College Library Media Center

Library Name, if different _____

1. Briefly describe your idea for the use of LSTA funding (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

Building on the success of BCC Reads, Bellevue Community College's One Book program, Reading Together will develop a focused, specialized book selection for those writing/reading courses that work with students at a precollege level. The population includes ESL (non-native speakers of English) and/or developmental education learners who may be immigrants/refugees, generation 1.5, native English speaking students and students with disabilities. These pre-college learners may also be students of color and/or first-generation college students. They may not share the heritage or experience of higher education and may face considerable challenges in their efforts to participate in the culture of higher education. These learners face the risk of academic culture-shock, lack of personal confidence, and an under-developed sense of efficacy. They often fall behind, ultimately dropping out of school. Using agreed-upon criteria, the instructors in the Developmental Education program, librarians and representatives from other college divisions as appropriate will select a common and suitable book for pre college level courses. Faculty will create a learning community among themselves to exchange teaching ideas, practices, and student responses; create assignments; share grading protocols; develop outcomes (curriculum development); and create spaces for students in courses who have adopted the book to exchange ideas about the book and discuss their reading process. The program will advance literacy in students through the motivation and engagement provided in a shared reading experience with a book that incorporates accessible and meaningful themes for this level of reader. The empowerment that they will gain from this program will help them step out of the margins of society and find their voices as informed and participating members of their personal and professional communities. Partnerships with public libraries will be encouraged.

2. Briefly describe why funding of this idea is important to the Washington library community (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

Funding the project is important to the Washington State Library community because it exposes pre-college learners to rich intellectual and imaginative ideas that reading and discussing bring and engages these learners in the process of reading, learning, and dialoguing about ideas, experiences, and important questions confronting communities in and out of school. Funding will enable the following:

- a) Faculty will modify curriculum as they create modules that integrate Reading Together into the learning process.
- b) A reward structure for faculty will be developed for the creation of deliverables and implementation of pedagogical changes.

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- c) Assignments, exercises and activities will be designed to develop critical thinking skills as learners sharpen their ability to verbalize thoughts and opinions. These will help develop written and verbal communication.
 - d) Reading Together will engage issues or themes of cultural, linguistic, societal, economic, or identity transformation for pre college learners as they develop into involved members of the community.
 - e) Free copies of the book will be made available to all participating students and faculty.
 - f) All 34 community and technical colleges in Washington State have ESL programs that can take advantage of instructional models and methodologies developed by their peer colleges.
 - g) Librarians and library staff working with participating faculty and students will acquire a wider understanding of resources and services about intercultural concepts, experiences and perspectives.
 - h) Partnerships with public libraries will be developed to reach learners who do not feel comfortable being in a college setting. There will be classes held in public libraries.
3. Briefly describe the outcome that is expected should the idea be funded. In other words, how will we know if the project has been successful and has achieved its goals? (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

This common reading program that will serve pre-college learners aims to develop information literacy, and cultural literacy among learners, reading and writing skills, cultural pluralism among instructors and learners, and reflective practice among instructors. Accomplishment of these will be evidenced by the following:

- a) Development and implementation of class modules and instructional materials, assignments and activities for use by other faculty.
- b) Study guides for faculty to help generate ideas on how to incorporate the book into the curriculum.
- c) Creation of explicit guidelines for the selection criteria that reflects the student population participating in the program. This will include the solicitation, selection process and determination of the book for use in the program
- d) Documentation and other methodology for the exchange of ideas among instructors and librarians will promote resource sharing and encourage partnership and collaboration.
- e) Student work that demonstrates learning experiences in relation to reading the book. This may take the form of writing exercises, a capstone project such as the creation of a class portfolio, and other creative ways to show the effect of Reading Together on the learning process of the students.
- f) Creation and use of assessment tools to identify how the book has become a catalyst for conversations and self-improvement for the students
- g) Documentation of activities and events (posters, campus announcements, number of attendees)

General Information

Which library types are intended as the primary beneficiaries of this project? (check all that apply)

- Academic (private and public two-year and four-year academic institutions)
 Public (libraries organized under RCW 27.12)
 School (private and public K-12 schools)
 Special (business and industry, law, medical, other government, tribal, other)
If other, specify: _____

The intended beneficiaries of the project? (check the primary beneficiary)

- Library staff
 Library users or potential library users
 A specific group of staff or users, or a potential user group. Name the target beneficiaries(s): ESL students and developmental learners
(e.g., children, adults, disadvantaged, remote access library users, unserved community members, reference staff, IT staff, students)

The activities needed to implement this project are envisioned to include (check all that apply):

- User training
 Staff training
 Grants
 Development of best practices
 Demonstration of emerging technology or practices
 Other, please explain:

Faculty and librarian time to develop criteria for book selection, and the implementation of the selection criteria.

Faculty time to develop instructional materials to integrate the book into the curriculum

Faculty and librarian time to develop assessment tools

Considering the outcome desired, how long should the project continue? 2 years with possibility of continuance to another 2 years

(Note that most projects are from one year to four years in length.)

Which Library Council priorities support the idea you are submitting (check all that apply)

- Increase information access for the people of Washington
 Advance literacy in the state of Washington
 Demonstrate how libraries educate, empower and elevate people, communities, and democratic society by providing free and equitable access to all types of information.
 Serve underserved, unserved, and culturally diverse communities and populations
 Enhance the skills and knowledge of library staff
 Preserve library collections