

Committee Report
(September 2020-April 2021)

Committee Name: Service and Partnerships

Committee Chair: Timothy Helwig

FOCUS 1. By the Fall Board meeting, determine, by analyzing the number of applicants and/or recipients, which awards and internships to continue, expand, or eliminate.

Although we did not receive any applications for the fall 2020 internship stipend, we did receive two applications for the spring 2021 internship stipend and funded both of them. As discussed in the February 25, 2021 webinar about scholarships and internships, applications for the summer 2021 internship stipend competition will be accepted on Award Spring from April 12-26, 2021. Because internships may increasingly be virtual, we will adjust the monetary amounts of our internship stipends accordingly. We did not call on our volunteer evaluators often this year, but we anticipate needing evaluators at the end of April and we thank them for their service!

The two students that we placed for the (suspended) summer 2020 Penguin Random House internship have been offered the internship for summer 2021. We expect that Penguin will offer a fall 2021 internship, and we await word about the details. Overall, we are pleased with our success placing our students in this competitive internship.

FOCUS 2. By the Fall Board meeting, in consultation with NEHS, review and make recommendations about the new NCTE internship.

Applications for the 6-week virtual summer internship with NCTE will be accepted on Award Spring from April 12-26, 2021. Instead of focusing on writing a “daily digest” about the annual NCTE intern, this writing-intensive summer internship will include helping with social media content, supporting NCTE Twitter chats, writing emails promoting live events, and drafting press releases. Chris Mitchell, the Marketing Director at NCTE, has requested to review the applications on his own, and so we will not be calling on evaluators to review these particular internship applications.

At the invitation of NCTE, we are in the process of putting together a roundtable, featuring two Sigma Tau Delta chapter advisors and their English Education students, for the NCTE convention in November 2021 to be held in Louisville, KY or virtually. We hope to be able to cover the registration costs and perhaps some of the travel costs for the participants.

FOCUS 3. By the Fall Board meeting, and in collaboration with Student Leadership, SKD & NEHS, prepare and launch the annual International Literacy Project.

We placed an outstanding student—Brooklynn Gross—in the currently running Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) internship; she is helping to promote DPIL’s

upcoming conference with their regional affiliates. There are no plans for a summer intern, but there will likely be a fall internship with DPIL.

We continue to explore the possibility of having chapters (of STD, SKD, and NEHS) to partner with DPIL's regional affiliates, as we shift our focus from fundraising for DPIL to providing in-person service with their affiliates.

FOCUS 4. Discuss strategies for identifying a new internship partner by Spring 2021.

We have created a variety of new internships with NCTE and DPIL over the past couple of years, and we continue to explore opportunities for more internship opportunities with these entities.

OTHER: Chapter Project Grants. We funded the two applications we received in November 2020 for project grants: a free little library by the chapter at the University of Texas Dallas, and a digital archive of minority-authored experience by the chapter at North Dakota State University. Two of our project grant recipients from fall 2019 have requested extensions to the end of fall 2021 because their project was tied to an event that only happens in the fall semester and was canceled due to COVID in fall 2020; the extensions were granted. Finally, starting this November, we will use AwardSpring to streamline the application and award follow-up process for chapter project grants.