

Educational Outreach Committee Meeting
New College Institute
July 24, 2008
10:45 a.m.

The New College Institute Educational Outreach Committee met on Thursday, July 24, 2008, at the NCI Classroom Building, Room 301 at 10:45 a.m.

Attending were: Ms. Amanda Redd, chairman, Delegate Danny Marshall, Ms. Elizabeth Haskell, George Lyle, and Morgan Guthridge

Others present were: Dr. Leanna Blevins, NCI Associate Director, Mr. Steve Keyser and Mr. Sammy Redd, NCI Outreach Educators, and Ms. Ruby Jones, Administrative Assistant

Absent were: Delegate Ward Armstrong and Kimble Reynolds

I. Welcome

Ms. Amanda Redd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 2, 2008 was approved by the committee members.

III. Associate Director's Report

Dr. Blevins presented an overview of this summer's internship program. Through a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission, this is the second year NCI has offered the program to college students in Henry and Patrick counties and Martinsville. A total of 25 interns were chosen to participate this summer, out of 52 applicants. A six-person selection committee comprised of local educators and business professionals reviewed each unidentified application and made their decisions based on the information presented on the resumes and application packets. As a follow-up, site visits have been made to each participating employer by NCI staff, who in turn received excellent and positive feedback regarding each intern. In addition to work experience, the interns were also presented opportunities for fun, social activities shared as a team. A banquet is being planned for August for the interns and their prospective employers. Delegate Marshall suggested that NCI begin to track the progress of each intern to determine how many of the students return to the area to live and work after graduation from college. This information may be helpful for the VTC Special Projects committee to determine the necessity of future funding. He explained a program funded by the same committee called "Return to Roots" program whose goal is to reach out to former residents and high school and college alumni who want to return to the region. Dr. Blevins stressed the importance of continued funding in order for the NCI Internship Program to be offered.

IV. Updates from the Educational Outreach Activities:

Mr. Keyser reviewed the outcome of the VCU Summer Institute Workshop for teachers. A total of 11 local teachers attended the week-long workshop held at Virginia Commonwealth

University, compared to 7 from last summer. Teachers participated in various workshops consisting of graduate-level courses such as art, science, and forensics.

Mr. Keyser also discussed the three summer camps offered this summer at NCI.

- 1) *Math & Everyday Life* was held June 16-20, offered to girls in grades 4 to 6, gave opportunities for hands-on projects to help in understanding how math is used in everyday life. Sixteen students participated in projects such as cooking and sewing using math as a basis.
- 2) *Camp Idea* was held July 14 – 18, and was an entrepreneurship camp designed to allow the middle school-aged students to create a conceptual business from start to finish, and present their project at the end of the camp to parents and NCI staff and faculty. A total of nine students participated in the camp.
- 3) *Explore Laboratory*, which is scheduled for August 4 – 8, will be taught by the Institute of Advanced Learning and Research and hosted by NCI. The students will learn to use a microscope, create chemical reactions, and generate electricity from fruit.

Mr. Keyser also pointed out to the committee that all area students, including those home-schooled, were allowed to participate in the camps.

[Dr. Blevins also noted that bringing in these young people is not only beneficial for student summer activity, but it gives them a positive outlook for the future, how they can set goals to attend NCI or other institutions, and also brings interest from the parents.]

Mr. Redd reviewed the financial aid aspect of the Outreach Educators role. Some points to be considered when talking with potential students:

- The major concern from potential students is their inability to finance their education
- The Outreach staff helps with locating funding sources and aids with form completion
- The community offers many resources for financial aid that may not be realized, such as Martinsville Area Community Foundation, and the J.T. Minnie Maude Foundation from Danville
- Applications have increased for the Virginia Tobacco Commission Loan Forgiveness Program
- More interest in the \$2000 NCI Grant and the Ben Gardner Scholarship this year
- WIA will help students with expenses incurred through continued education, such as babysitting and travel expenses
- Students who demonstrate financial need typically will qualify for federal grants and loans through FAFSA.

V. **Other Business/Discussion**

None

Being no further business, Ms. Redd adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Ruby Jones
July 24, 2008