



Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR

DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY (JANET PINKLEY)

ACTIVITY TITLE: CHILDREN'S READING CELEBRATION & YOUNG AUTHOR'S FAIR

DATE(S) OF ACTIVITY: APRIL 13, 2012

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Attach:

- 1) Student evaluations or assessments- *removing all student names and other identifying information*
- 2a) Please list the number of students participating for each segment of the activity.
- 2b) For overnight activities, please include the majors and graduation dates or class level(s) of students on a separate sheet.
- 3) Any images demonstrating student participation (up to 6 images). Please include captions for all photos.
- 4) A summary of expenses.

The IRA allocation for the Children's Reading Celebration was \$950. There was a total of \$600 in honorarium awarded: a \$300 honorarium for the featured author, Tina Nichols Coury; a \$150 honorarium for our concertina book maker, Angela Kirsch; and a \$150 honorarium for our musician, Christopher Del Rosario. \$100 was used for printing the passports that the children use to attend the various student-run stations during the event. \$250 was used for snacks/food for the event.

E-mail to the IRA Coordinator at lisa.ayre-smith@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity.

It is recommended that sponsors also retain copies of reports for your records.

Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!!

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;

The Children's Reading Celebration and Young Author's Fair (CRC & YAF) is an annual Broome Library event done in partnership with CI's English Program, the Ventura County Reading Association (VCRA), the Target Foundation, Four Pillars Chapter of Mortar Board, and the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE).

The CRC & YAF supports CI's mission of placing students at the center of the educational experience by providing experiential and service learning opportunities for our university students as well as K-12 students in local school districts. CI students in ENG 212: Introduction to Children's Literature are engaged and empowered by leading activities as "Storytellers" and "Book Artists" during CRC & YAF. All CI service learning students are self-directed at their rotating stations. The "Storytellers" select the books and conduct read-alouds and the "Book Artists" cultivate an appreciation for print culture with bookmarks and concertina book making.

A newer partner in this event is the Four Pillars Chapter of Mortar Board. Mortar Board is a highly competitive national college honor society that recognizes seniors for their accomplishments in service, leadership, and scholarship. Mortar Board's "Reading is Leading"

initiative is its national service project to promote literacy, and the Children's Reading Celebration is one way our CI Chapter does this. Students in Mortar Board serve as "Imagineers" where they facilitate creative writing and the writing process and then children are encouraged to share their stories through the Mortar Board hosted open-mic session. Finally, Mortar Board students also serve as "Artists" where they helped children create bookmarks.

The CRC & YAF's goals are to promote literacy, create opportunities for experiential and service learning, cultivate an appreciation for print culture, and lastly, that every family leave the event with a FREE book. In reaching out to a broader audience, targeting First 5, generating bilingual promotional materials, and fostering new community partnerships, we are growing every year yet forced to do more with less funding, no staffing, and lack of materials.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

This activity was created specifically to serve as a service learning experience for students enrolled in Claudia Reder's English 212 course, Children's Literature. This activity directly relates to the course outcome that students will be able to "Apply effective techniques for reading-aloud to children in school settings. (Standard 5)" This activity also supported Four Pillars Chapter Mortar Board in supporting its national goal of "Reading is Leading" and supporting literacy in their community.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

The strengths of Children's Reading Celebration is the student engagement in promoting literacy to children, the welcoming of the community to CI to celebrate reading, and the nurturing of community partnerships.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

Each year we assess the program in order to improve what we are doing. This year, the main weakness identified that will be improved upon next year is the absence of a time limit in the open-mic area, resulting in one child dominating the station despite efforts of CI students to encourage other children to read aloud. To try and minimize the possibility of the same scenario next year we will implement a sign-up process for open mic, so that time is limited, and participants have a dedicated time.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

I continue to learn and adjust Children's Reading Celebration to support student service learning. This event is definitely dynamic because the student volunteers and community volunteers are different each year, so I always learn something new!

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