

NOMINATION FORM
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICE LEARNING COMPETITION

Institution: Technical College of the Lowcountry

Title of Project: Reading Across the Lowcountry for Dr. Seuss' Birthday!

Project Director: Kelli Boniecki

Contact Information for Project Director: 843-525-8307

Establishment Date of Project: January 2015

Unit That Administers Project: Early Care and Education

Total Number of Students Involved: 76

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NOMINATED PROJECT
(Insert your response after each question; the response to each question should be no more than one page)

1. For purposes of this competition, the Commission on Higher Education defines service learning as college student learning at any level and in any situation that is *linked* in a direct, hands-on fashion to the resolution of a problem or concern in a target community outside the institution *and is related* to a college course with some type of reflection activity. How does your project meet the parameters of this definition?

Students within the Early Care and Education Program are provided with the opportunity to read to children between the ages of Infant through Six years in a variety of locations within the TCL service area. Students conduct the readings in conjunction with Read Across America and Dr. Seuss Birthday to encourage and advocate for the importance of reading on all age levels.

2. Specifically, which segments of the college/university community does your project involve?

The Business Technology Division- Early care and Education associate, certificate and diploma seeking students are connected with this community wide event.

3. How many students (specify degree levels to the extent possible) does the project affect?

76 students ranging from first year and second year degree students makes this event possible. 110 students are duplicated as 34 of the students are enrolled in multiple classes engaging in the same activity.

4. Describe the target community or communities your project serves.

The target population ranges from children between the ages of birth-6 years and their families, public and private elementary schools, private child care programs, public community libraries, local early childhood advocacy organizations and faith based communities.

5. Describe your project's effectiveness in helping to solve the problems or concerns in the target community.

The Reading Across the Lowcountry program helps to bring awareness to the importance of reading and the enjoyment it can bring to our communities youngest learners. The students bring reading to a variety of different locations throughout the area where formal reading experiences could be limited by outside community members.

6. Describe the degree to which your project enhances student learning while providing specific examples of the service learning activities the college students engage in. Also explain how the service learning activities reinforce or apply what the college students learn in the classroom.

Students engaging in the Reading Across the Lowcountry event take back the importance early literacy opportunities make on our youngest learners within the community. Students are taught to observe, connect and feel the enthusiasm each child brings during the story time. Students gain the confidence in speaking in front of others in preparation for their future teaching career.

Students are educated in advance on how to determine a child's interest in a book, encouraging conversations during story time, handling a book while reading and tracking with their finger along the texts within the body of the book. Students gain a stronger understanding of how to choose a book based on the age and literacy levels of the children in which the story will be

shared. Emphasis on reaching out to evaluate the primary language levels of the children and families are experienced to ensure the book choice is appropriate for those with both English and ESOL populations.

7. Is there academic credit associated with the project (not necessary for submission)? If so, please explain the particulars.

No, this is considered a community outreach project within the program.

8. If funding is required, how is the project funded and what is the approximate annual budget for the project?

Funding for this project would allow the Early Care and Education Program to afford Dr. Seuss books and prop supplies students can check out from the early childhood program to use during their story time experiences. Access to additional Dr. Seuss books would allow students to donate a book to the program they read to as a gift.

Funding for the initial set up of the project would run approximately \$700.00 with an annual expenditure of \$400.00.

9. Add any other comments you may have about your project.

Please see attached pictures of reading experiences by students from March 2015.

You may also include supplemental information about the project (such as brochures, pictures, etc.).

Please return this form via e-mail by **February 26, 2016**, to:

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