

Regional Director's Report

June 3, 2013

Regional Updates

Expenditure Report (See attachment)

- ❖ As of May 23rd, our grantees had expensed their awarded funds at 48% which you can see circled at the bottom of the expenditure report.

Community Outreach Update

- ❖ On May 22nd, Senior Director Lyons, Susan, and I met to discuss next year's community event. I am asking the council to consider the following for the event:
 - Date
 - Name
 - Location
 - Potential community partners
- ❖ We also discussed the proposed budget for next year. I will be submitting that to Phoenix for approval by June 14th.

2014 Needs & Assets Vendor Meetings

- ❖ On May 14th, FTF staff had the second of several teleconference calls with all of the selected vendors who are doing the work of the 2014 Needs & Assets Reports for the 31 regions in our state.
- ❖ The discussion revolved around:
 - Base Report scope of work
 - Additional Work Deliverables
 - Resources & Policies
 - Data plans

Read On Arizona

- ❖ On May 7th, I along with Dr. Aaliyah Samuel of FTF and Terri Clark, State Literacy Director, met with Alfredo Velasquez, the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, as well as the superintendents representing the different school districts in our region.
- ❖ Read On Arizona is a statewide, public/private partnership of agencies, philanthropic organizations and community stakeholders committed to a collaborative approach to creating an effective continuum of supports to improve language and literacy outcomes for Arizona's children ages 0-8.
- ❖ The Read On Initiative is a program run by Terri Clark. Read on Arizona currently has a partnership with FTF, ADE, Helios Foundation and Piper Trust. They are looking at to add Santa Cruz as the rural region to become a Read On area.
- ❖ Everyone is very excited about the opportunity and as a group, it was decided that Alfredo's office should be the point since we want it to be a county-wide initiative. Since this would be the first border area in the state to participate, everyone really wants to be the example for other communities.
- ❖ The County Superintendent of Schools' office will be drafting the letter of intent and we'll all be touching base again soon to continue the process.

School Readiness Indicators Benchmarking Workgroup

- ❖ On Thursday, May 23rd, Senior Director Lyons and I met with Chair Kirkpatrick and Vice Chair Woodford to discuss the statewide benchmarking process.
- ❖ Senior Director Lyons explained the following topics:
 - Historical overview of how the School Readiness Indicators were developed, their purpose and how collectively, statewide and regionally, the Indicators may be advanced through the benchmarking process.

- First Things First plays a significant role in the benchmarking of the School Readiness Indicators; however First Things First is not the only partner and contributor in the advancement of positively moving the needle.
 - Variations of the availability of benchmark data at this time. For example, there are benchmark data that is complete for some Indicators while other benchmarks with baseline data collection just beginning and two benchmarks require further data development and decisions.
 - Review of the 10 School Readiness Indicators, the applicable statewide benchmark and what data sources to be used to inform the benchmarking process.
 - How the state level benchmarking is intended to complement the regional level benchmarking.
 - Timeline and approach for regional benchmarking, which includes a phased timeline of when data is anticipated to be released for each School Readiness Indicator.
- ❖ The next cross-regional benchmarking group will meet on June 3rd in the Tucson office. Dr. Kemp will again be facilitating that meeting.

July/August Meeting Chair & Vice Chair Election

- ❖ At our July/August meeting, you will be tasked with electing a Chair and Vice-Chair. If you are interested in running or are interested in staying in those roles, please let us know.

Statewide Updates

June State Board Meeting

- ❖ Some of the topics to be discussed at the State Board meeting are:
- Approval of RFGA's/Renewals
 - Quality First 2015 Proposed Changes
 - 2014 – 2017 Communications Plan
 - Regional Boundaries Recommendations