NCSLMA Scholarships, Awards and Grants

Sarah Justice, Chair - Scholarships and Awards Chairperson
What Does NCSLMA Offer?

Awards:
- Media Coordinator of the Year
- Media Administrator of the Year
- Distinguished Service Award
What Does NCSLMA Offer?

Scholarships:

- 2 - $1000 Scholarships for those working towards their degree in Library Science and their 076 certification
What does NCSLMA Offer?

Grants:
- Read 2 Succeed
  - 5 grants - up to $1000
- Action Research
  - 1 grant - up to $1000
Media Coordinator of the Year

- Presented to a media coordinator, or team of media coordinators at one school, in recognition of outstanding performance in the school library media center.
- **Nominees must be a member of NCSLMA** and currently must be employed in a North Carolina public or private school.
Media Administrator of the Year

- The award will be presented annually to recognize an administrator* who has made an outstanding contribution(s) to advancing the role of the school library media program in the state of North Carolina.
- *Eligible nominees: State, county, city school superintendents, building principals or assistant principals, district administrators such as assistant superintendents, directors of curriculum and instruction, etc. in either public or private schools are eligible to be nominated for this award. Media supervisors and/or directors would not be eligible for this award.
- nominee does not have to be a NCSLMA member
- the person nominating must be a NCSLMA member
Remember

MCOY and MAOY

- by nomination
- if nominated, be sure to include all parts of application forms
- be as specific and detailed as possible when completing sections
- Letters of recommendation are important. Find someone who will write a detailed one!
- GRAMMAR/SPELLING
Distinguished Service Award

- The award will be presented annually to recognize an individual or organization for contributions to NCSLMA and/or school library media programs throughout the state of North Carolina. A nominee should have made noteworthy contributions to the furthering of the role of the school library media coordinator and the school library media program in the state of North Carolina.
- Nominee does not have to be a member
- The person nominating must be a member
Scholarships: What you need to know!

- One time scholarship of $1000
- The scholarship will be used to assist in the cost of having successfully completed one three-hour graduate course leading to a graduate degree in library science and a North Carolina 076 Media Coordinator certification.
- Transcript is required
- Class must have been completed within the last twelve months with a grade of B or higher
Scholarships: Things to remember!

- Grammar makes a HUGE difference
- Follow the directions
- Be specific when answering questions
- Make sure to include all parts requested
- Signatures are important!
Read 2 Succeed Grants

The basics:

● 5 grants of $1000 (or less)
● The project is a collaboration project with a classroom teacher
● Have a clear impact on your students
● Have a clear budget
● Be creative! Be innovative!
Read 2 Succeed Grant Ideas

Previous/Current winners-

Graphic novels to tie in with History class. Also used for Banned Books Week theme.

Book club to encourage elementary boys to read

Biographies for “Rookie Researchers” (1st grade)

Study of Inventors and creation of own inventions

Student choice in book purchasing (catalog or store visit)
Action Research Grant
Action Research: the vehicle the school librarian uses to analyze a situation and determine what needs to be done to address the issue.

★ Solution-oriented

★ Evidence-Based
**IMPACT: Guidelines for NC Media and Technology Programs**

**ACTION RESEARCH** involves the in-depth study of one’s own classroom or school over an established period of time. In action research, the researcher (i.e. teacher, technology facilitator, media coordinator) is not removed from the intervention or the environment but, rather, *is a key component* of either the intervention or the environment. Like more complex research methodologies, action research involves the systematic collection and analysis of data.

**ACTION RESEARCH INVOLVES:**

- Identifying a problem or issue.
- Researching current literature on the issue.
- Designing a strategy to address the issue.
- Implementing the designed intervention.
- Gathering and analyzing data.
- Taking action and sharing results.

It is important to remember that at each stage of action research, the researcher is expected to reflect, but this is especially important at the completion of the research study. Researchers should reflect on his/her own learning and the application of this learning to the future of classroom or program practice. Action researchers should be encouraged to document and share both their process and the discoveries of their research. Sharing action research can include article publications and conference presentations.
Action Research

- Is reflective *problem solving* (solution-based)
- Is research specific to the library where it is being conducted
- Is about something **YOU** have the power to change
- Is supported by research
  - a literature review shows you’ve done your homework
  - a literature review validates what you want to do and why you think it will help
- Has clear, realistic assessment strategies (evidence-based)
  - Should aim to incorporate data from 3 different sources such as statistics, observations, and interviews
Examples and Ideas

- Can booktalks increase circulation of overlooked books?
- Will regular access to public libraries can make the difference in summer setback?
- Does Accelerated Reader support student achievement?
- How can I increase collaboration with teachers?
1. Begin with a topic that you are curious or passionate about.
2. Develop some questions about it.
3. Brainstorm/mindmap
   ○ What do I wonder?
   ○ What do I already know?
   ○ What do I want to learn?
   ○ What will give me the information I need?
4. Determine the context (1 student, 1 teacher, 1 class, 1 grade level, timeframe...)
5. State your hunch - what do you think you will find out through this?
6. Lit Review
7. Goals, Outcomes, Essential Questions
   ○ What data to collect? From where, from whom? when?
   ○ How to collect it?
8. Collect Data
9. Organize and Analyze Data (patterns, themes, conclusions)
   ○ Sort into meaningful sets, piles, or categories
   ○ chart it or graph it
   ○ Keep a journal or log for notes and observations
10. Reflect & share
Action Research Proposal: What value will you demonstrate through your research?

- As a result of your research what will change or improve for students, for teachers, for the school
  - Student reading scores will improve
  - Student interest in reading will increase
  - More access to the library and librarian
  - More collaboration with teachers
  - More resources to support the curriculum
Consider

- Asking your PTA or a community organization to match the funds or at least contribute to the grant (money and/or volunteers).

- Writing the proposal as a collaborative venture between the school librarian and classroom teacher(s); with the PTA; with the public library; with the principal; with the counselor; with a specialist; with a resource teacher, another school librarian ...
Typical Problems with Proposals

- Ideas too broad and lofty
- Not clear on the assignment
- Not fully thought out
- No research or research question
- No clear evaluation/assessment
- Not following requirements of grant
Tips for Writing Successful Proposals

● Stick with the KISS method (Keep It Simple Sweetie)
  ○ The simpler the idea, the easier to execute and *evaluate*!

● The committee
  ○ doesn’t look for grandiose proposals, it looks for ones that a single librarian can carry out by his/herself in a specific amount of time
  ○ looks for proposals that are clear and will have obvious impact

● Most importantly, think about how what you proposal will demonstrate value to your students
  ○ What changes for the students? (How will you know this, prove this?)
    ■ Do their reading scores improve? (How will you know this, prove this?)
    ■ Does their interest in reading change? (How will you know, prove this?)
  ○ What changes for the teachers? Or to others?
    ■ Do more teachers checkout library resources?
    ■ Do more teachers coteach with the school librarian?
Overall Tips for Success: Scholarships, Awards, and Grant Proposals

● Make absolutely sure you have followed all directions
  ○ Include all required parts
  ○ Use checklists
  ○ Get all required signatures
  ○ Submit by deadline

● Proof-read: grammar can make or break applications
  ○ Review what you wrote yourself
  ○ Have others proofread your application
  ○ Review what you wrote again
www.ncslma.org/awards-grants
Application Period: February - May 15th
What Questions do you have about any of the scholarships, awards or grants?
Sarah Justice
Chair, Scholarships and Awards
sarahjustice@ncslma.org