

## **NORTHERN ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL LITERACY AWARDS**

### **General Information**

Do you have a great idea for a special literacy project but no funding to make it happen? *\*Check out the articles from our last two grant recipients below!*

The Northern Illinois Reading Council (NIRC) has established two monetary awards to help projects like these.

The \$500 Literacy Project Award is intended to support teachers who develop or adopt literacy projects for use in their classrooms or schools. Some projects in previous years have included parent/child literacy activities, after-school reading programs and thematic literacy ideas to be used in the classroom.

The \$250 *Library Launch Grant* is intended for teachers who are new to a classroom or who have received an assignment to a new grade level. The award is intended to help teachers build classroom and professional libraries of their own.

**Both grants are available only to NIRC members. Award winners will be expected to submit a written and/or photographic summary of their completed projects to the NIRC newsletter. Awards will be presented at the NIRC Fall Conference in September. Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2016.**

**For further information, email Carol Untch at [cuntch@syc427.org](mailto:cuntch@syc427.org)**

## **NIRC LITERACY LIBRARY LAUNCH GRANT**

### **Overview**

One of the most challenging tasks of a new teacher is building a classroom and professional library. Leaders in the field of reading advocate having up to 3,000 titles for a classroom library and rotating them by taking some home and bringing others during the school year. For the new teacher, the cost is prohibitive. Likewise, staying current with new professional titles is vital but expensive.

The **NIRC Literacy Library Launch Grant** targets teachers who are either new to the profession of teaching or new to a particular grade level. The individual must be a current member of NIRC. The purpose is to provide financial assistance (\$250) to teachers as they develop a children's/young adult classroom library as well as acquire literacy titles for their personal professional library.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- 1. You must be a teacher with initial Illinois Teacher Certification (Years 1-4 of teaching) OR a teacher who is being assigned to a new grade level.**
- 2. You must be a member of the Northern Illinois Reading Council (NIRC).**

**This grant provides funds for both classroom libraries and personal professional libraries. Please write a one page overview that explains why the grant will help you develop and expand your classroom library. Specific reasons for selecting books should be mentioned (i.e. for lit circles, to accompany a science or social studies unit, to serve as mentor texts for writing examples, etc.) Include an itemized budget of costs for the books you wish to purchase. Also include an explanation of how the funds would help you become a better teacher of reading by expanding your professional library. Remember if awarded, you are required to submit an article and/or photographs and descriptions of the project to the NIRC newsletter.**

**All applications must be received by midnight by June 30, 2016 to be considered. You may send the application through the U.S. mail or via email to:**

**Carol Untch  
914 Esther Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178  
[cuntch@syc427.org](mailto:cuntch@syc427.org)**

**NIRC LITERACY LIBRARY LAUNCH GRANT APPLICATION (cont.)**

**Applicant:**

**Member of NIRC? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_**

**I am a(n)**

**\_\_\_\_\_New teacher with an Illinois Initial Certificate**

**\_\_\_\_\_Experienced teacher who is teaching a new grade level**

**Home address:**

**Home Phone:**

**Email address:**

**School name/District:**

**School Address:**

**This page serves as the cover letter for your application. Please do not include your name, name of your school, city or any other identifying information on your one page overview for the grant.**

**Northern Illinois Reading Council (NIRC)**  
**Literacy Project Award Application**

**Applicant:**

Member of NIRC? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Home address:

Home phone:

Email address:

School name/District:

School address:

**LITERACY PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project title:

Grade Level(s)

Number of students participating:

Status of project: New program\_\_ Existing/Continuing Program\_\_\_\_\_

Is applicant a classroom teacher? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_(please Identify)

**This page serves as the cover letter for your grant application. Please do not include your name, school, city or any other identifying information on the other pages of your application.**

***I hereby submit my application for a Literacy Project Award from the Northern Illinois Reading Council. I understand that, if awarded, I am required to submit an article and/or photographs and descriptions of the project to the NIRC newsletter.***

**Teachers signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Apply by June 30, 2016**

**Northern Illinois Reading Council (NIRC)**  
**LITERACY PROJECT AWARD APPLICATION, p. 2**

**Please type or print in black ink. Limit attachments to one page. Do not put your name, city, name of school, or any other identifying information anywhere in your application other than on the cover page.**

**Project title:**

**Objective:** State your project's objective in 3-5 sentences. (What literacy need is being addressed by your project?)

**Description:** Summarize your project. (What is your project? When and how will it be implemented?)

**Activities:** List the key activities in which the students will be involved.

**Budget:** Purchases must be an integral part of this project. Be very specific and detailed with your budget request. Include materials, equipment, and sources of supply as well as the cost of each item. Verify availability of supplies.

**Evaluation:** Describe the methods you will use to evaluate the impact and success of your project. (What will you use to collect data that can indicate that your project has been successful?)

**All applications must be received by midnight on June 30, 2016 to be considered. You may send the application through the U.S. mail or via email to:**  
**Carol Untch**  
**914 Esther Ave., Sycamore IL 60178**  
**[cuntch@syc427.org](mailto:cuntch@syc427.org)**

## NIRC Literacy Library Launch Grant

Criteria	Below Average (1 point)	Satisfactory (2 points)	Outstanding (3 points)	Score
<b>Need</b>	Not tied to literacy purposes or need is minimal; need not stated in the proposal.	Tied to literacy purposes and need is adequate; need explicitly stated in the proposal.	Tied to literacy purposes and need is thorough and detailed; multiple needs are explicitly stated in the proposal.	___/3
<b>Reasons for book selection</b>	The purposes for the selection of children's books and literacy titles for a professional library are vague or not stated in the proposal.	General rather than specific purposes are given for the selection of children's books and professional book titles.	Specific purposes are given for the selection of children's books and professional book titles (i.e. for lit circles, mentor texts; to expand my knowledge of close reading techniques, etc.)	___/3
<b>Scope of Project</b>	Involves a limited number or participants	Involves the classroom of the participant.	Involves multiple classrooms.	___/3
<b>Budget</b>	Total amounts listed; no budget breakdown provided; expenditures are unrealistic.	Adequate budget is provided; some breakdown of expenses is given; expenditures are realistic.	Detailed list of expenses is included; expenditures are realistic	___/3
<b>Publicity</b>	No evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; no plan to share project in NIRC newsletters or at NIRC conference.	Evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; plan to share project in NIRC newsletter or at NIRC conference is evident.	Evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; plan to share project in NIRC newsletter <u>and</u> at NIRC conference or other venue.	___/3

### **NIRC Literacy Award Rubric**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Below Average (1 point)</b>	<b>Satisfactory (2 points)</b>	<b>Outstanding (3 points)</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Need</b>	Not tied to literacy purposes or need is minimal; need not stated in proposal	Tied to literacy purposes and need is adequate; need explicitly stated in proposal	Tied to literacy purposes and need is thorough and detailed; multiple needs are explicitly stated in proposal	___/3
<b>Project description</b>	Project is incomplete; timeline is missing or insufficient	Project and timeline are realistic and attainable; description is adequate	Project and timeline are well thought out; implementation plans are detailed	___/3
<b>Scope of project</b>	Involves a limited number of participants	Involves the classroom of the participant	Involves multiple classrooms and/or community involvement	___/3
<b>Budget</b>	Total amounts listed; no budget breakdown provided; expenditures are unrealistic	Adequate budget is provided; some breakdown of expenses is given; expenditures are realistic	Detailed list of expenses is included; expenditures are realistic	___/3
<b>Evaluation</b>	Little or no evaluation of the project is described; data collection not appropriate or sufficient for the project	Evaluation plan is adequate; describes how one type of data supporting the success of the project will be collected and analyzed	Evaluation plan is outstanding; describes how more than one type of data supporting the success of the project will be collected and analyzed	___/3
<b>Publicity</b>	No evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; no plan to share project in NIRC newsletter or at NIRC conference	Evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; plan to share project in NIRC newsletter or at NIRC conference is evident	Evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; plan to share project in NIRC newsletter <u>and</u> at NIRC conference or other venue	___/3

**Total score \_\_\_/18**