

Final Report
Professional Development Grant

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RESTATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY AND OF PROBLEM RESEARCHED.

In April 2013, I was elected as a member of the Best Edited Book Award committee of the International Children's Literature Association. Committee members are required to attend the annual ChLA conference, where they hold their official committee meeting, so I needed funding to get to the conference in Biloxi, Mississippi in June 2013.

BRIEF REVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY AND OF PROBLEM RESEARCHED.

In January of 2013, I was nominated to be a member of the Best Edited Book Award committee because I had won the award the previous year. When the annual elections were tabulated in April, I received a letter from the ChLA president to congratulate me on being elected to the committee and inform me that as a member of the committee I must attend the annual conference for three years. Although I do normally attend the conference, I had planned to skip this one and therefore had not applied for funding from the College of Arts and Humanities. When I discovered I had to attend, the college funds were depleted, so I applied for a Professional Development Grant to attend the conference in Biloxi, Mississippi.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

I attended the Children's Literature Association conference in Biloxi from June 13-15, 2013. I successfully met with my committee and was briefed on my committee responsibilities. I also attended many conference sessions and made useful scholarly connections. For example, I proposed a panel for the next conference, proposed a chapter for an essay collection, and came up with an idea to edit a collection of my own.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a member of the Best Edited Book Award committee, I have read and critiqued eight collections of scholarly essays that were published in 2012 and are therefore eligible for an award in the coming year. By December, I will have read approximately eight more. Reading these collections helps me stay abreast of developments in children's and young adult literature and therefore benefits my students as well.

I have also drafted a query letter to send to editors to find out if there is any interest in the essay collection I conceived of at the conference.