

“NEA-NYSUT Read Across New York”
“Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers”
20th Anniversary of Read Across America

Friday, March 2, 2018

Description:

As the New York affiliate of the National Education Association (NEA), New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) successfully submitted a proposal in November, 2017 for a “Read Across America Event Grant,” and was selected for a maximum award of \$20,000. In celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the NEA Read Across America Program (RAA), our goal is to provide access to diverse books and literacy materials for students and families in low-income Title I eligible communities throughout our state. This action by NYSUT was in response to the NEA’s grant funding announcement of October 31, 2017, requesting proposals “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers.”

Proposed Event / Activity:

Fifteen NYSUT locals will be selected based on their one-page description of a proposed community outreach literacy event to highlight RAA’s 20th Anniversary of “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers,” during the 20th Anniversary of RAA. “Read Across America - New York” (RAA-NY), will place emphasis on diverse issues, cultural competence and enabling our diverse student populations to feel valued and validated.

NYSUT teachers, SRPs, librarians, counselors, child care workers and higher education locals are encouraged to participate and play key roles in expanding children’s learning opportunities by applying to this program. Studies are showing higher literacy scores among at-risk students when they are provided access to diverse reading material. Diverse stories offer these children hope in their own struggles against injustice and adversity as these student populations experience characters very much like themselves in the books. Conversely, these diverse stories also allow for our greater society to view a window into the lives and struggles of others, generating much needed knowledge, understanding and empathy for those who are different.

For Local Grant Consideration:

RAA-NY will highlight diversity and love of literacy through statewide reading activities. Existing First Book approved Title I local associations, will be encouraged to host diversity themed reading event utilizing the RAA resource calendar and other materials provided at www.nea.org/readacross.

Locals will also be urged to visit the Reading Is Fundamental (www.rif.org/nea) for activity and curriculum for books featured in the resource calendar and poster. Selected locals will be encouraged to focus on books and authors that feature, or mention New York authors and themes, highlighting the RAA theme of “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers.”

Identified NYSUT locals will be required to select from the current 1,381 diverse titles on the www.firstbook.org website’s “Stories For All Project” landing page. These titles include: African-American (377); Asian, Pacific Islander (151); Hispanic (430); Native American (59); Muslim (39); Jewish (47); Immigrant (135); Special Needs (69); LGBTQ (41); and Religion (36).

Additionally, eligible locals will be encouraged to feature authors, characters or stories from New York, about the Empire State, or set in the Big Apple. From the First Book website and its newly created sister website

www.fbbookbank.org, locals and members will be encouraged to expose their students to wonderful NY stories like: *"I Am Jackie Robinson;" "Stonewall: Breaking Out In The Fight For Gay Rights;" "Bronx Masquerade;" "Bravo: Poems About Amazing Hispanics;" "Hiawatha & The Peacemaker;" "Zora and Me;" "Voices From Colonial New York;" and "Take A Picture Of Me, James VanDerZee."*

As NYSUT locals and leaders engage communities and members through RAA-NY, we are excited at the possibility of NEA and NYSUT leaders to participate in your local event(s). Priority will be granted to locals that have a fun and creative community event that a national or state leader may participate in. Locals must describe how they may generate earned media opportunities with their local newspapers, local radio stations, social media and blogs to showcase our member-driven, student-focused reading-related events.

We will also be providing branded "goody bags," rulers, pencils and printed materials that focus on the school-student-family connections. Locals are encouraged to submit ideas for fun and creative literacy events. Including reading circles; story-time activities; building a book mountain and how communities will be involved during their open house activities.

***Questions That *MUST* Be Answered:**

***WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED DATE(S) / LOCATION(S) OF YOUR PROPOSED EVENT(S) / ACTIVITIES?**

(Activities should take place around the Friday, March 2, 2018, Read Across America date.)

***WHICH LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SCHOOLS WILL BE INVOLVED?**

***HOW WILL THE \$1,000 RAA-NY FUNDS BE UTILIZED TO PROMOTE DIVERSE READING?**

(Locals will receive \$1,000 to spend in their existing First Book accounts for their RAA-NY "Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers" events. Selected locals will also each be provided with an additional \$300.00 in www.raastore.com materials to add some festive fun to their celebration.)

***WHAT IS YOUR PROMOTIONAL PLAN FOR YOUR EVENT?**

(Locals will be urged to generate earned media opportunities with their local newspapers, radio stations, and blogs to showcase member-driven, student-focused reading-related events.)

***DESCRIBE HOW THIS GRANT FITS INTO YOUR LOCAL'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN?**

(Example: Read Across America – NY is another excellent union-led initiative that allows for local associations and leaders to engage parents of Title I students; provide high-quality diverse literacy resources; fosters home-school-community partnerships and allows for positive community engagement by showcasing a fun, positive, student-centered activity that showcases members and locals in a positive light. The initiative also aids in internal and external organizing within the union and solidarity in the local association and community.)

DEADLINE FOR GRANT SUBMISSION: Friday, February 2, 2018

SUBMIT 1-PAGE DESCRIPTION & SIGNED COVER SHEET TO: pwebster@nysutmail.org

CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSAL QUESTIONS: Thursday, January 25, 4:00 p.m.

Phone Number: (877) 336-1829

Access: #7947550

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20th Anniversary of Read Across America - Friday, March 2, 2018

Mini-Grant Application

(All Applications Must Include This Cover Sheet & Local President Signature)

Affiliate Contact Information:

Affiliate Name: _____

Local President Name: _____

Phone: (o) _____ **(c)** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Primary RAA-NY Local Contact Name: _____

Phone: (o) _____ **(c)** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

(We suggest using a non-school e-mail address for union business).

Local President Signature: _____

Date: _____

NYSUT Regional Office: _____

LRS Name: _____