

Mark Twain Reading Council/Culver-Stockton College

Culver-Stockton College Department of Education , Reading Plus, and Mark Twain Reading Council have teamed up with Canton R-V and Lewis C-1 for a two-year research project, “The Bridge to Proficiency,” that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the middle school and high school intervention via Reading Plus. Culver-Stockton is also collecting data on its students 13-16.

Reading Plus is designed to ensure high success reading experiences for struggling and developing readers who need effective reading practice to become proficient. Computer-based, structured activities are individualized for each student’s needs to ensure development of the “unseen and unheard” literacy skills that are taught the least and tested the most. “As a tool, technology can help teachers provide needed support for struggling readers including instructional reinforcement and opportunities for guided practice.” -Reading Next Report (2004)

Mark Twain Reading Council has an active student and friends group that did a “Book Giveaway” this past summer (over a \$1000.00 worth of new books for kids K-8) at local Food Bank.

Culver-Stockton College and Mark Twain Reading Council is “on track” for launching a digital “publishing platform” to publish a regional anthology that will feature fiction and nonfiction from and about the Tri-State region – northeast Missouri, west central Illinois, and southeast Iowa. The first phase will include naming the anthology (solicit suggestions from everyone in the region) and training CSC library staff and anthology editors. Submission information will be distributed in January for the first edition.

Quincy, Illinois Rotary East will launch discussions of their Summer Reading Partnership in January. The partnership will seek to have a major impact on promoting summer reading, encourage cooperative planning and promotion among schools and public libraries, distribute books, e-readers, and technology to children and young adults who have the least access to reading materials, and create programs that are sustainable throughout the school year. Partners (at this point) include Culver-Stockton College Department of Education, Quincy University Department of Education, the Kroc Center/Salvation Army, Canton Public Library, Quincy Public Library, Keokuk, Iowa Public Library, the GAMM Project, Rotary Clubs in the Tri-State area, and private foundations that are interested in promoting literacy. The “Partner Offensive” is a continuing activity of the Rotary East. All are welcome to contribute talents, ideas, money, and energy!

Literacy Heroes this year are Julie Claus, Children and Young Adult Librarian at Keokuk Public Library and Josh Heitman, a student intern in content area literacy at the Keokuk Public Library, summer 2011.

