

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the WIIT Charitable Trust: May 2006 – May 2007**

### Monique's Intro

The trust began the activities of its fifth year by continuing to promote their trade education module, which features eight lessons plans on international trade concepts that engage students through participation. Due to the time commitment necessary to grow the project and in order to better realize the goals of the Trade Education Project, Ms. Michaela Platzer was hired to manage the Trust and its agenda on a contract basis from Feb. 1 to December 31, 2007.

Under Ms. Platzer's direction, the Trade Education Project has been successfully publicized to educational organizations and teachers. The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) will include a paragraph on the Project in their June or September 2007 newsletter, which reaches over 24,000 members. The Trust also began dialogues with the National Council on Economic Education, the Center for Economic Education, and the Virginia Council for the Social Studies. The Trust has established contacts throughout the country as far as Carmel, CA.

On February 9, 2006, the Trust submitted a Letter of Interest to the Meyer Foundation, as required before submitting the full grant proposal. Due to significant competition for funding, including over 240 letters of interest submitted, the WIIT Trust letter was not selected for further consideration. However, in their response letter, the Meyer Foundation provided additional resources for funding from other sources for the Trust to consider. Ms. Platzer plans to meet with a Meyer Foundation representative in order to attain constructive criticism and suggestions for the future.

On September 12, 2006, the WIIT Charitable Trust presented its mission and lesson plans to WIIT members at a brownbag meeting. This presentation led to a connection with Chuck Dittrich from the National Foreign Trade Council who attended the meeting and conveyed the NFTC's current priority to promote trade education. The Trust looks forward to working cooperatively with the NFTC as well as with other major trade associations such as the US Chamber's Trade Roots program. The US Chamber also received 20 copies of the Trade Education CD-Rom to distribute at their June meeting of the Institute for Organizational Management (IOM).

At the annual meeting of the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT) September 14-15 in San Francisco, Ms. Roske spoke about the Trade Education Project, which secured the interest of a potential donor to the Trust from Global Data Mining. Additionally, the head of the OWIT Chapter in Alberta Canada, Ms. LeeAnn Hackman-Carty, is in touch with the provincial Education Minister and agreed to promote the program to the Ministry of Education in Alberta.

Throughout the greater Washington DC area, the Trust sustained and furthered its relationship with public and home schoolteachers. Ms. Monique Roske, Chair of the WIIT Trust, conducted three training presentations of the Education Project for teachers

in Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and Charles County as part of the Maryland Governors Academy. Participating teachers gave constructive positive feedback and seemed eager to use the modules in their classrooms. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, head of the Social Studies program at Maryland's Department of Education, also conveyed interest in assimilating the WIIT trade education modules into the state's prescribed Social Studies curriculum.

Furthering its efforts to obtain a grant from the Cafritz Foundation, the Trust will re-submit a new grant proposal prior to the July deadline that highlights its main goals. These goals include acquiring \$30,000-\$50,000 to complete the "pilot" project focused on schools in the Washington Area. Emphasizing its desire to move to the next level for its scope and funding, the Trust will also stress its current efforts to reach teacher organizations and school districts rather than individual teachers. To strengthen the new application, the Trust also intends to follow up on 2006 Cafritz suggestions before submitting the new funding request.

The WIIT Charitable Trust is in beginning phases of conducting a 2007 study exploring "The Impact of International Trade on Women" in collaboration with Women's Edge Coalition. Ms. Roske has participated in initial discussions about how the two organizations could partner together on this research project.

In addition, Ms. Naniette Coleman, currently Deputy USTR Director for Southeast Asia and returning to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard in September 2007 and is looking into creating a study on "Careers in International Trade" and working together with the Trust. In dialogue with Ms. Mary Alexander and Ms. Roske, she was also very interested in the upcoming project covering "The Impact of International Trade on Women." Currently, Ms. Coleman is researching funding opportunities for her study. She suggested another meeting in March 2007.

In co-ordination with George Washington University's Center for International Business and Education and Research (CIBER), the Trust has expressed an interest in working together on a project of vignettes that follows the lives of individuals working in international trade over a five-year period. Efforts in this matter are currently underway and being led by Ms. Mary Lou Egan and Ms. Susan Schmidt.

Monique's Conclusion