

**Grant Report to the APA
From the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO)
September 2013**

Budget and Logistics:

In 2013, PLATO received a \$1,500 grant from the APA to help fund its second biennial conference in New Orleans in February 2013, to coincide with the opening of the APA's Central Division meeting. (Budget details below.)

The meeting (1½ days) took place at Loyola University New Orleans. Sixty people attended the conference from across the country and around the world. Approximately half were invited speakers, and 14 submitted papers.

There were ten sessions, both whole-group and concurrent, as well as a reception.

Accomplishments - Advancing PLATO's mission and the field of pre-college philosophy in the United States:

The goal of the conference was to bring together all those working in pre-college philosophy so everyone could learn about the variety of programs that exist and to strategize about how to advance the mission. The conference drew philosophers, K-12 teachers and administrators (from public, independent and charter schools), professors of education, undergraduate and graduate students in both philosophy and education, representatives from the National High School Ethics Bowl initiative, and people specializing in educational media. Some had been working in this area for many years; others were relative newcomers. All the attendees came away from the conference with a clear understanding of what programs were in place, and what new programs could be planned to build on the work already accomplished.

The contribution of the international speakers (England, Spain, Australia and New Zealand) was invaluable. They shared their strategies for teaching philosophy at the elementary, middle and high school levels, as well as discussing the professional organizations devoted to pre-college philosophy in their countries, offering insight into ways these programs and organizations could be adapted to the US.

2013 Conference Budget:

- Program materials - \$348
- Catering - \$1,743
- Travel and accommodations for presenters - \$6,076
- Conference space – donated by Loyola University New Orleans

Conference total expense: \$8,167

Conference expenses were funded by the APA grant, a grant from the Squire Family Foundation and conference registration fees.

Next conference:

The third biennial PLATO conference is now being planned for June 2015 in Seattle. Nationally-known educator Jonathan Kozol has agreed to deliver the keynote address. Thanks to feedback from the attendees, this conference will concentrate on offering specific hands-on workshops for teachers.