**Common Reading Program 2013-14**

**Essay Competition Writing Prompts**

The Common Reading Program is sponsoring an essay competition in conjunction with the Common Reading book, Conor Grennan’s *Little Princes*. Four scholarship prizes will be awarded for the Spring semester 2014:

First Prize: $500 scholarship

Second Prize: $250 scholarship

Third and Fourth Prizes: $125 scholarships

**Eligibility:**

Student must be a first-semester SCSU or SCTCCC student this fall, continuing on for their studies at SCSU in Spring 2014, and they must submit an essay to the Common Reading Program Essay Competition according to the guidelines laid out herein.

**Students may choose 1 of the prompts below:**

1. Conor Grennan was deeply touched by the children at Little Princes Orphanage and again by the seven orphans he discovered on his second visit. Human trafficking has become a worldwide problem, affecting millions. How did Grennan’s relationships with these children help humanize this growing global problem? Why has this problem flourished and what steps might help to stop it? Discuss the work of the organization Grennan founded, Next Generation Nepal ([www.nextgenerationnepal.org](http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org)), in the context of addressing this global issue.
2. Conor Grennan experiences both culture shock when he first arrives in Nepal, and reverse culture shock when he returns home to the United States. Describe some of the telling moments in his experience and how they constitute (reverse) culture shock. How does he develop intercultural understanding with the people he encounters in Nepal? And how does he convey that to his presumed reader, a person who has never travelled to Nepal? Do you believe he effectively helps you understand what life is like for the children of Little Prince and their families? Why or why not?

To be eligible to win, essays must respond to all aspects of the prompt chosen from the above options.

Selected essays will demonstrate the following standards: Essays should be a maximum of 5 pages, double spaced. They must be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must be well-written and organized. They will demonstrate a clear engagement with the common reading book and display evidence of a thoughtful engagement with themes introduced by the book.

**Submission details**:

**Submission deadline is: Tuesday, October 22 at 4 PM in Centennial Hall 208.**

Late submissions will not be considered.

Submissions must also adhere to the following:

* **Four** **copies** of the essay must be submitted for blind review. This means that each copy of the essay should have a title, but be free of all identifying information (i.e., name, tech ID number, and so on).
* Your submission **should include a separate cover sheet** which includes your personal information: Name, Tech ID Number, HuskyNet email address, Local phone number, and Essay Title.
* Submissions should be sent via campus mail or hand delivered to the Common Reading Program, Centennial Hall 208.