



# Student-Led Best Practices

## Submitted by Bonner Congress Representatives

**Name of Best Practice:**

Implementation of Books for Africa

**College/University:**

Lynchburg College

**Name of Congress Presenting Report:**

Kate Bauer

**Background**

Inspired at the COOL conference, Lynchburg collected Books for Africa. Partnering with non-profit Books for Africa, Lynchburg Bonners collected textbooks from their peers during the spring buyback season.

**What Makes It Unique?**

This event was unique because it filled a tangible student and global need. It also exposes students to global poverty and issues, in a way that they can take action. Davidson's book drive collected books that students could not sell and in turn provided books for non-profit Books for Africa. The organization provides boxes, postage, and hints for planning an event, making it a sure success.

**How It Works**

1. Bring the BOOKS FOR AFRICA idea up at a weekly meeting.
2. Contact BOOKS FOR AFRICA regarding your interest. They will supply you with boxes, labels, and a tip sheet for coordinating the event. Be sure to have contacted BOOKS FOR AFRICA by mid semester.
3. Reserve a space around mid semester for gathering books.
4. Talk to the mailroom and explain the program so that they are aware that there will be extra big boxes sent out.
  - Remember that BOOKS FOR AFRICA pre-pays for postage
5. Have students sign up for table shifts during exam week and beyond.

6. Have Bonners sign up and pledge time to sit at the table to collect books in half hour slots. Set up a table outside of the location where students sell their books back.
  - During the time slots, have Bonners explain to passersby what the organization did and asked for books they were not selling.
  - Bonners are also responsible for packaging books when the boxes are filled.

Students then spread the word and donated many books out of their goodwill and lack of trunk space at the end of the year. We received thousands of books.

### **Recommendations**

Ask the mailroom or facilities to transport heavy book boxes.

Ask the following persons for any extra books: library, professors, faculty, and staff. These persons are bound to have books that are lying around that they no longer need.

### **Supplementary Documents**

<http://www.booksforafrica.org/>