

Eryn Harvey

## Two King's College Departments Involved with Local Non-Profit

What do the King's College Education Department, and Mass Communications Departments have in common? They are both currently partnering with the RichSoil Alliance/Carrie Flower Program. "RichSoil Alliance is a group of dedicated individuals serving the community by improving the lives of children and their families," RichSoil Alliance.

Education Department at King's College, Dr. Laurie Ayre said the department started their partnership with RichSoil in spring of 2015. They were trying to find a field experience for education students that served children from Pre-K.

"It's always been required that education students read aloud a children's book for a class requirement," said Ayre. The series of books the education students read to children involve a character Named Carrie Flower. "Carrie Flower promotes healthy lifestyles by teaching children they are all unique and special, with different shapes, sizes, and colors. Together they make a beautiful bouquet," RichSoil Alliance.

"The students read the books in an interactive fashion. That is to say that in addition to the actual reading, they incorporate discussion and other activities including, singing, movement, and props. Some of the props include a Carrie Flower Doll, other dolls that are friends of Carrie Flower, and other items unique to each book," said Ayre.

Chair of the Mass Communications Department at King's College, Dr. Scott Weiland explains how the department got involved with this organization. "We had an outreach from Laurie Ayre in the Department of Education, and she had mentioned that RichSoil Alliance had a wonderful project that they were working on implementing in a local school district, and it

involved a character who's name is Carrie Flower, in a series of books related to this character," said Weiland.

"Initially the request that was made from our friends at RichSoil was they were looking to have some video production done, and from there it snowballed into additional work," said Weiland. Students in a video field production course will be filming King's College education students as they go to local schools in the future to read the Carrie Flower books to children.

For more information please contact Cynthia Post at (570) 814-3323 or visit [www.RichSoilAlliance.org](http://www.RichSoilAlliance.org) for more information on how your school can develop a partnership.



King's College education students read Carrie Flower books to Pittston Primary and Intermediate Centers. Credit: RichSoil Alliance