WTWP Teachers on the Road

A group of WTWP teachers with ongoing classroom inquiry projects are presenting their work at national conferences. Molly Coffman (Madison Academic Magnet H.S.), Beth Halbert (Mt. Juliet High School), Andi Neihoff (St. Mary's Catholic School, Jackson), and Angela Redden (Dickson Middle School) began working together after realizing that their independent research projects shared the common thread of diversity.

Their first presentation was July 13 in Louisville, K.Y., at a conference sponsored by the International Whole Language Umbrella of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). The title of their presentation was “Observing Diversity: a 21st Century Classroom Inquiry Journey.” On the heels of this experience, the group was invited to offer a similar presentation at the NCTE Convention in New York City on November 15.

Andi Neihoff and Angela Redden were also invited by the National Writing Project to facilitate a site development workshop called “Pathways into Inquiry: Models for Beginning Teacher Inquiry Communities” at the NWP Annual Directors Meetings in New York City on November 15.

Nancy Warden (Eagleville School) attended an NWP-sponsored Professional Writing Retreat in Santa Fe, New Mexico June 14-17, where she worked on drafts in progress in the company of professional writing consultants. Please join WTWP in congratulating all of these teacher-scholars on their work.

New Advanced Institute in June 2008!

Announcing a new opportunity for teacher consultants who have participated in the Summer Institute: the Advanced Institute for Teacher Inquiry. For TCs who want more of the classroom inquiry experience that has become vital to WTWP, this is a week-long chance to write, research, and share work in progress with like-minded teachers. Limited spaces will be available. Look for brochures in the mail and updates on the web soon.

Young Writers’ Clubhouse

WTWP’s new program for young writers launched its second year of operation with a Young Writers Summer Camp at UT Martin June 18-22 and the announcement of four Young Writers’ Clubhouse Saturday workshops for 2007-2008.

Led by teacher consultants Brittan Sutherland, Deborah Doss, Mary Perry, and J. J. Cooper, thirty-two writers from third through eighth grades attended the weeklong Young Writers Summer Camp in June. On October 20, Brittan Sutherland, Deborah Doss, and Becky Hasselle led students in the first of four Young Writers’ Clubhouse workshops with the theme of monstrous mysteries. Upcoming clubhouse dates are December 1, February 2, and April 12, with respective themes of creative writing, fairy tales, and writing about music. Other TCs that will be leading sessions include Andi Neihoff, Blair Chadwick, and Pam Sliger. For more details, including how to register, visit www.utm.edu/wtwp.

Writing on Water

Sixteen TCs converged on Paris Landing State Park October 5-6 for the annual Writing on Water Retreat. Organized by Molly Coffman, Beth Halbert, Lee Hudson, and Lana Warren, the retreat this year focused on “Vignettes and Personal Narratives: Writing about Teaching.” Participants were invited to begin or revise stories about their teaching with an eye toward eventual publication. W.O.W. participation is open to any TC of WTWP. Look for info on next year’s event in the mail and on the web in the Spring.
New Faces in Summer Institute 2007

Twelve new teacher consultants completed the 15th annual Summer Institute of WTWP, held May 19 and June 4-28 on the campus of UT Martin. The teachers are Greg Barclay (South Fulton H.S.), Jennifer Brandon (Ripley Primary), Mary Kathryn Coffman (Ripley H.S.), Heather Harned (Glenellen Elementary, Clarksville), Rebecca Hasselle (Dyersburg Middle), Nancy Johnson (Obion Co. Central H.S.), Tara Kendall (Union City Schools), Angela Lamb (Obion Co. Central H.S.), Constance May (Paris Elementary), Lorrie Vinson (Huntingdon Middle), Beth Wright (Dresden Middle), and Tommy York (Obion Co. Central H.S.). Please join us in welcoming these new TCs to WTWP!

August Workshop a Hit

Around sixty teachers gathered August 18 for the WTWP Fall Workshop, “Every Child Has a Song (And Every Teacher Too): Writing and Music in Every Classroom.” Participants enjoyed breakout sessions on poetry, music, blogs, classroom inquiry, and more. The Caixa Trio, a group of professional percussionists and teachers, led participants in interactive sessions using percussion to inspire creativity.