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Field Notes

Vol. 14, No. 1

West Tennessee Writing Project

October 2005

1 “Teachers: Artists in Residence” Workshops for Teachers

Again this school year, the West Tennessee Writing Project is offering standards-based workshops, “Teachers: Artists in Residence,” on Saturdays at three locations in West Tennessee.

They are Nov. 12, 2005 at the Boling University Center at UT Martin; Feb. 11, 2006 at Central High School in Bruceton; and April 1, 2006 at Dyersburg State Community College, Baptist Student Union. Workshops begin at 8:30 and conclude at 3:30 with an hour for lunch.

Each session is interactive and led by a Teacher Consultant of WTWP. Content is adaptable to all grades and is consistent with Tennessee state standards, specific performance indicators and the goals of differentiated instruction. Teachers may earn points toward highly qualified status by participating.

Registration is \$45 for each workshop. For full information on each workshop plus registration information, see WTWP on the web: www.utm.edu/wtwp. Or contact the office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education: ecce@utm.edu; 731.881.7082; or write: ECCE, 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

For more information about this series or about professional development designed with WTWP for your school or system, contact the WTWP inservice coordinator, Betty Hicks, Dyer County Northview Middle School, blhickswtwp@yahoo.com.

2 Inservice from WTWP

If your school improvement plan calls for more and better writing, WTWP can assist by developing programs of inservice that focus on writing across the curriculum.

If reading is a priority in your school, WTWP Teacher Consultants can demonstrate how their students participate in literature circles, an approach to reading that leads to greater comprehension,

enjoyment of reading, wider reading, and critical thinking.

Writing assessments? Teacher Consultants of WTWP have served on the Writing Assessment Committee meeting in Nashville each spring, helping set anchor papers. WTWP Teacher Consultants can demonstrate to other teachers how they assist their students in preparing for the testing environment.

3 Invitational Summer Institute 2006

WTWP is now accepting applications for participation in the 2006 invitational summer institute reading, writing, teaching institute.

The institute meets Saturday May 20, 2006, and then Mondays through Thursdays, June 5-29, 2006 on the UTM campus. Deadline for applications is Feb. 22, 2006.

The summer institute offers six hours of graduate credit with tuition covered by the National Writing Project. The hours may be applied toward graduate work in education at UT Martin, may count as hours above the master's, or may be used to document highly qualified status.

Through teaching demonstrations, discussions, and reading, teachers discover innovative ways to meet standards and to implement differentiated instruction; methods of assessment that are both teacher-driven and student-driven; approaches to writing and reading that develop critical thinking among students; and realize that wonderings about students and learning become the beginnings of classroom inquiry. In afternoon writing workshops, teachers recover their love of writing.

From Kathy Todd, Lara Kendall Elementary in Ridgely, a 2005 institute participant: “I have learned that teaching writing doesn't have to be a chore. Actually, it can be fun. Students will learn more about the English language by writing than any other method we use.”

Texts provided teachers have included: *A Community of Writers: Teaching Writing in the Junior and Senior High School* by Harvey Daniels and Steve Zemelman; *In the Middle: New Understandings about Writing, Reading and Learning* by Nancie Atwell; *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading? Content Comprehension Grades 6-12* by Cris Tovani; and *The Writing Workshop: Working Through the Hard Parts (And They're All Hard Parts)* by Katie Wood Ray.

The institute welcomes applications from teachers all grades K-12 and all subject matter areas. Participants are teachers of music, art, physical education, history, math, science, social studies, English, language arts, reading.

For further information and application materials, see www.utm.edu/wtwp or contact WTWP Director, Margrethe Ahlschwede, Department of English, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238, 731.881.7290.

Betty Hicks, 6th grade reading teacher at Dyer County's Northview Middle School in Newbern, is inservice coordinator for the West Tennessee Writing Project. If you would like your school or system to partner with WTWP to plan and facilitate programs of professional development to fit the needs of teachers, contact Betty Hicks, blhickswtwp@yahoo.com.

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WTWP Calendar

Oct. 14-15 Writing on Water writing retreat, Paris Landing State Park, for Teacher Consultants of WTWP.

Nov. 5 Sixth Day, Davis-Kidd Jackson, for Teacher Consultants of WTWP.

Nov. 12 Teachers: Artists in Residence, standards-based workshop open to all, Boling University Center, UT Martin, registration through ECCE@utm.edu.

Nov. 18 National Writing Project Directors meeting, Pittsburgh.

Feb. 11, 2006 Teachers: Artists in Residence, standards-based workshop open to all, Central High School, Bruceton, registration through ECCE@utm.edu.

Feb. 22, 2006 Applications for 2006 WTWP Summer Institute due, WTWP, Department of English, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

Feb. 25, 2006 WTWP 2005 Summer Institute Follow-up, Davis-Kidd, Jackson.

April 1, 2006 Teachers: Artists in Residence, standards-based workshop open to all, Dyersburg State Community College, Baptist Student Union, registration through ECCE@utm.edu.

April 29, 2006 WTWP 2005 Summer Institute Final Follow-up, Camden/Paris.

May 20, 2006 Immersion for 2006 Summer Institute, UT Martin.

June 5-29, 2006 Monday-Thursday, Summer 2006 Institute, UT Martin.

Teacher Participants in the 2005 Invitational Institute of WTWP

Lee Ann Robins

Jackson Central-Merry 9-12 English, Journalism

Andrea Doyle Neihoff

St. Mary's Catholic School, Jackson, 6th reading and 6th and 7th English

Nancy Crider Arnold

Briarwood School, Camden, 4th grade

Lori Ward

Briarwood School, Camden, 5th grade

Donna Walker

McKenzie Middle, language arts, 6th grade

Angela Garner

Bowling Green University, Ohio, English

Kathy Todd

Lara Kendall Elementary, Ridgely, K-2 resource, grades 3-8 talented and gifted

J. J. Cooper

Lakewood Elementary, Paris, 5th grade

Shannon Collins

Tenn. Tech. University, Curriculum and Instruction

Deborah Doss

Hickman (Kentucky) Schools, 3-5th reading and social studies

Summer Institute Focal Team

Beth Halbert

Mt. Juliet High School, English

Angela Redden

Dickson Schools, 7th English

Brittan Sutherland

Martin Elementary, 5th grade

Margrethe Ahlschwede

Director WTWP, Department of English, UT Martin

Day-long Residency in Poetry

Bill Brown

Greenbrier, Tennessee

Teacher Consultant Morning Residencies

Paula Cox

Briarwood School, Camden, 5th grade

Lee Hudson

Dyer School, 7th reading

Diane Shaw

Assistant professor of art, UT Martin

About WTWP

The West Tennessee Writing Project is a program of professional development for teachers, K-12, in all subject matter areas. It is part of the Department of English at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Why a writing project? To increase the frequency of writing in classrooms, expand the variety of writing, develop a love of reading and writing among students, publish student writing, combine writing with reading to increase reading fluency and comprehension, and validate student competence in reading and writing in testing climates.

Teachers of WTWP--Writing Teachers/Writing People--believe everyone can write; create classrooms as safe places for students to read, write, and learn; respect standards as inherent in pedagogy; value assessment in many forms; honor students, colleagues, parents and administrators as partners in school success.

Funding for WTWP comes from the National Writing Project and the University of Tennessee at Martin with additional support for particular programs from area schools and systems. Project Director is Margrethe Ahlschwede, professor of English. For further information about WTWP, e-mail wtpw@utm.edu, phone 731.881.7290 or check the WTWP website: www.utm.edu/wtpw

