

Teacher Inquiry Network Makes Plans for Year Ahead

BY RUTH DEVLIN AND SHIRLEY BROWN

This past June, the leadership team for the National Writing Project Teacher Inquiry Communities (TIC) Network met in Boston at Babson College to set in motion exciting plans for the upcoming year.

The TIC Network's primary goals are to promote an inquiry stance and attitude across NWP sites and to foster and facilitate communication about inquiry within and between sites. The hope is that, via the NWP website, the TIC Network will serve as a clearinghouse for teacher inquiry resources and information. With these goals in mind, the network has planned the following events:

- This November at the NWP Annual Meeting, the TIC Network will sponsor a number of workshops. At these presentations, teacher-consultants engaged in inquiry will describe their work. It is the stories of teachers involved in teacher inquiry that best clarify what teacher inquiry looks like and what it can be.
- The TIC Network will offer minigrants for the first time this year. The request for proposals (RFP) will be available at the annual meeting.

- Following last year's success with the TIC Network-sponsored Authors and Issues Online Conference, the network will be sponsoring another online conference, tentatively set for March 2003. The network's first event, featuring author Jane Zeni,

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focused on ethical issues surrounding teacher inquiry. The upcoming Authors and Issues conversation will encourage dialogue around the process of teacher inquiry.

- Marian Mohr, co-author of the NWP book *Teacher-Researchers at Work*, will begin piloting an online mentoring project for teacher-researchers who are not part of a teacher research community.
- The TIC Network section of the NWP website is being updated to include a bibliography, a research directory of teacher-consultants involved in similar teacher research, and a spot for topic-specific conversations

surrounding teacher research projects.

- Currently, another exciting beginning is under way. The National Writing Project, the Coalition for Equitable Schools, the Carnegie Foundation, and the Bay Area Writing Project are involved in a partnership known as the Teacher Research Collaborative (TRC). Two major goals of the collaborative are to facilitate communication among these different groups and to develop tools for teacher-researchers across these organizations. The group held its first meeting at the University of California, Berkeley, August 14–17, 2002 .

The TIC Network is a new network. We hope to involve teachers from across the National Writing Project in our work and to help individual sites develop and sustain their own teacher inquiry communities. For information about how you can become a TIC Network participant, consult the Programs section of the NWP website at www.writingproject.org.

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