



NWP Spring Meeting Tops Its Own Mark

With cherry blossoms still in bloom, more than 175 writing project directors and teacher-consultants converged on Washington, D.C., from April 11 to 12, for this year's National Writing Project Spring Meeting. This turnout was the largest to date.

And the event itself was no letdown. Congressional supporters spoke at a Thursday morning kickoff meeting on Capitol Hill, reiterating their commitment to the writing project. Teacher-consultants and directors spent the afternoon visiting the offices of their elected officials, educating legislators and their aides on the role played by the writing project in their local communities.

"Creating Successful Schools Against the Odds" was the theme of day two, with P. David Pearson, dean of the University of California Berkeley Graduate School of Education, sharing his research on school- and classroom-level characteristics that account for exceptional growth in literacy. Boston Writing Project Director Joe Check followed with a lively discussion on exemplary contexts and programs, and receptions on both days gave writing project colleagues from around the country a chance to mingle, sharing ideas on everything from best practices to politics.



Andrea Fishman, director of the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project, introduces Sen. Arlen Specter at the opening session of the NWP Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.