

NWP Spring Meeting: Help Keep Education a National Priority

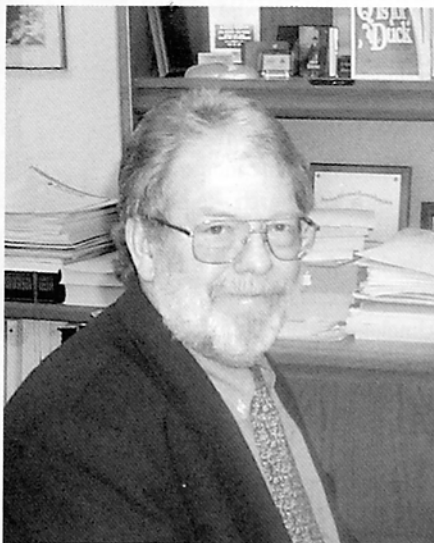


Discussions led by nationally-recognized education experts. A private tour and reception in the Smithsonian. Meetings with senators and representatives on Capitol Hill. Cherry blossoms in full bloom. All this, plus the opportunity to mingle and meet with writing project friends and colleagues should give directors and teacher-consultants from across the network plenty of reason to join us, April 11-12, 2002, for this year's National Writing Project Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.

"Like so many writing project events, the spring meeting seems to get better and better every year," says NWP Co-director Mary Ann Smith. "We have a variety of exciting activities planned this year, and I hope as many teacher-consultants and directors as possible will be able to join us in Washington, D.C."

The event will kickoff with a meeting in the U.S. Capitol on the morning of April 11. As in years past, key NWP supporters in both the House and Senate will address our group, providing insight into the legislative process and tips for meeting participants preparing to meet with their legislators later in the day. NWP directors will present the latest data on the writing project at that session, and new materials, including the 2001 annual report, will be distributed.

Participants will then spend the afternoon canvassing the halls of the U.S. Capitol, meeting



P. David Pearson, dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley, will speak at the NWP Spring Meeting.

with representatives and their aides to both explain the work of the writing project and ask them to support our professional development program. (See the article on page 6 about making appointments with your congressional representatives.) NWP will host a reception at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum to close out the day, giving writing project colleagues a chance to reconvene, share stories about experiences on Capitol Hill, and enjoy one

another's company over good food and drink.

School reform issues will be the focus on Friday, April 12, beginning with P. David Pearson, dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley, and former co-director of the Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement. His talk, focusing on schools that have made it against the odds, will be followed by an afternoon workshop, all to be held at the Phoenix Park Hotel. Optional evening and weekend activities will be offered as well, including a Saturday morning tour of a "More Perfect Union," a Smithsonian exhibit on the internment of Japanese Americans during World War Two.

"It should be another exciting two-plus days in Washington this spring," Smith told *The Voice*. "With the variety of events and speakers we have planned, I think everyone who makes the trip will really get a lot out of it."

Reservations for the Phoenix Park Hotel can be made by calling 800/824-5419 or 202/638-6900, no later than Friday, March 8. (Mention NWP group #8792 for reduced rates.) To get the most-up-to-date information or to register for the meeting, visit the NWP website at <http://www.writingproject.org/Calendar/SM/2002springmtg.html>. You can also contact Yvonne Chiu at ychiu@writingproject.org, or call the NWP office at 510/642-0963.