



THE UNIVERSITY
OF VERMONT

**College of Education and Social Services
National Writing Project in Vermont**

June 26, 2009

Dear School Leader,

The National Writing Project in Vermont has developed a format for Professional Development that is showing remarkable success in several schools. Our NWP Teacher-led Study Groups are addressing two key goals for professional development: they engage teacher professional learning and often show real results in both student interest and achievement in writing.

This year we are offering a special program designed to help our Teacher Consultants develop plans for facilitating a Study Group in their schools this year, and we'd like to enlist your support with this valuable inservice program. We have invited a teacher or two from your school to plan in an Advanced Institute this summer. S/he will then run the Study Group at your school for the next year, and possibly beyond, in a partnership that draws on a rich variety of NWP resources.

This approach is based on the following principles of professional development:

- Enhancement of teachers' understanding of teaching and learning.
- Collaboration and collegial exchange.
- Genuine inquiry into school-wide issues.
- Data collection to enhance understanding and guide practices.
- Valuing of site-based knowledge and experience.
- Development of a learning community.

(T. Guskey, "What Makes Professional Development Effective." *Kappan*, June 2003.)

With four years' experience with this program, NWP-VT is now seen as a key contributor to NWP's collective learning, and through local and national conferences, teacher research and online networking, our site continues to use ideas and resources borrowed from other Writing Project sites. Below are examples of NWP resources—one of them produced by VT teachers:

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/2182>

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/2636>

Please contact NWP-VT by July 15th for more information on how to become part of this valuable opportunity. See attached costs and contract for more information.

Very truly yours,

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