

NWP Welcomes Eight New Sites

Once again, it's time to recognize the newest additions to the National Writing Project's network of sites. Although new sites were officially accepted last fall, *The Voice* announces them here to both celebrate and welcome them to the ever-growing network of the National Writing Project.

This year's new sites and their directors include:

Alabama

Sun Belt Writing Project at Auburn University

Auburn, Alabama

Alison I. Whyte, Director

California

UC Merced Writing Project at the University of California

Merced, California

Pauline Sahakian, Director

Florida

Florida Gulf Coast Writing Project at Florida Gulf Coast University

Fort Meyers, Florida

Patricia B. Wachholz, Director

Georgia

Georgia Southern Writing Project at Georgia Southern University

Statesboro, Georgia

Kathy Albertson, Director

Michigan

Meadow Brook Writing Project at Oakland University

Rochester, Michigan

Ronald A. Sudol, Director

Mississippi

Live Oak Writing Project at the University of Southern Mississippi

Long Beach, Mississippi

J. Elaine White, Director



New York

Hudson Valley Writing Project, SUNY at New Paltz

New Paltz, New York

Mary Sawyer and Tom Meyer, Directors

South Carolina

Upstate Writing Project at Clemson University

Clemson, South Carolina

Rebecca A. Kaminski, Director

NWP receives about 30 new site inquiries each year. In response, NWP staff sends out a packet of information to help the potential site get started. As these potential sites prepare their applications, they are often directed to existing sites in their state or region to help them through the process. Completed new site applications are due each year in September, after which applications are evaluated by a team of NWP senior staff and representative site leaders.

Funding for new sites is competitive and tied by legislation to the NWP model. The process by which new sites are approved bears some similarity to the evaluation sites go through each year to renew funding in that it includes a thorough examination of everything from university affiliation to goals to budget proposals.

Among features that the evaluators look for in potential site applications are the following:

1. Understanding of, and agreement with, the NWP teacher-centered model
2. Support for the proposed site from the university and from local teachers and school communities
3. Clarity on the NWP's major goals:
 - To improve student writing and learning in kindergarten through university classrooms
 - To extend the uses of writing in all disciplines
 - To provide schools, colleges, and universities with an effective professional development model

- To identify, celebrate, and enhance the professional role of successful classroom teachers.

In 2001, new site applications are due in the NWP offices on Friday, September 14.

—WRITTEN BY NWP STAFF