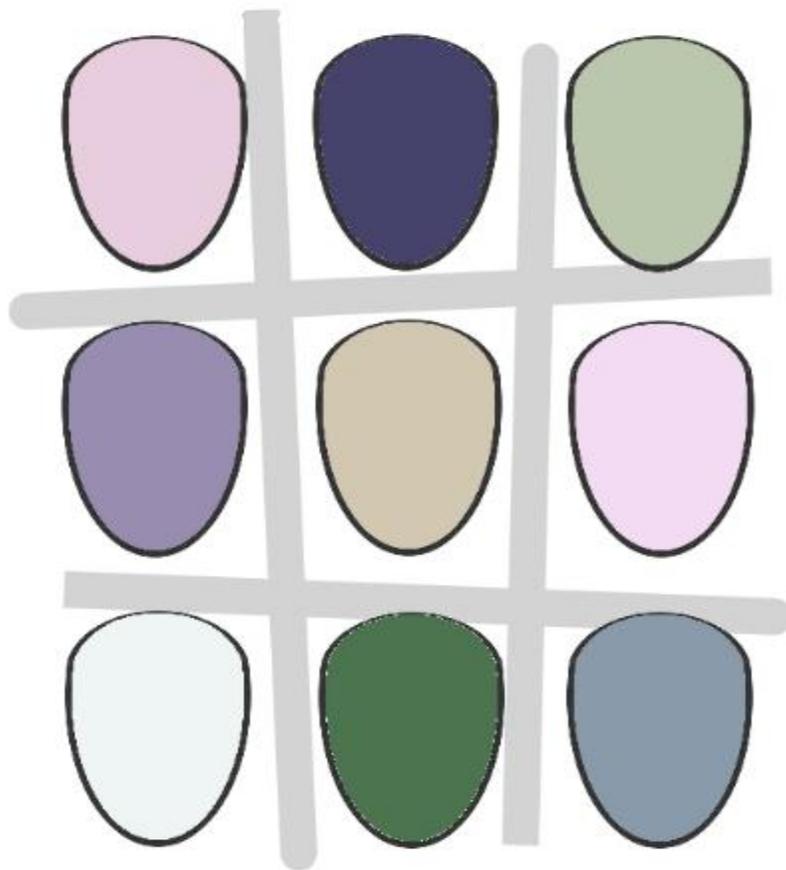


national **w**riting **p**roject
rural **s**ites **n**etwork

2011



“overcoming inequity :
creating opportunities for **all** rural students

March 11-12, 2011 - Little Rock, AR

Conference at a Glance

FRIDAY

Registration

Balcony

8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Optional Pre-conference Events

8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Creating Opportunities for English
Language Learners

Sponsored by NWP's ELL Network

Hoffman

9:00 am – 11:30 am

Clinton Library Tour

9:00 am – 11:30 am

River Market Writing Marathon

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Central High Tour

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Argenta Writing Marathon

Peabody Ducks and
Cocktail Social

4:45 pm – 6:00 pm

Salon Foyer

Opening Banquet

6:00 pm – 8:15 pm

Salons B and C

Optional Evening Activity

Digging Up Arkansas

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm

1855 House of Representatives

Chamber, Old State House Museum

SATURDAY

Registration

Balcony

7:00 am – 10:00 am

Continental Breakfast

Salon C

7:00 am – 8:15 am

Opening Plenary & Keynote

Salons B and C

8:30 am – 9:45 am

Concurrent Session I

10:00 am – 11:15 am

Lunch

Salons B and C

11:30 am – 12:45 pm

Concurrent Session II

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm

Concurrent Session III

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Closing Plenary Session

Salons B and C

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm

Barnes & Noble booksellers will
be selling a wide variety of
professional texts as well as
those by our featured speaker
Lee Anne Bell.

Salon Balcony

Saturday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

rural sites network conference 2011

The Great Bear Writing Project Welcomes You...

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Great Bear Writing Project, along with the Rural Sites Network Leadership Team and our fellow sites of the Arkansas State Network, welcomes you to the 2011 Rural Sites Network Conference. We are pleased to welcome you to the dynamic city of Little Rock, as well.

Our conference is packed with so many events – something for every participant. An important Friday feature is Creating Opportunities for English Language Learners, a workshop, co-sponsored by NWP's ELL network. Other pre-conference highlights include trips to the Clinton Presidential Library and Central High School and Museum, as well as two writing marathons. The day concludes with the Opening Banquet, where we'll hear from Spirit Trickey, the daughter of Minnijean Trickey-Brown, a member of the Little Rock Nine. After the banquet, those of you interested in learning more about Arkansas may choose to attend *Digging Up Arkansas*, a play by Northwest Arkansas Writing Project TC, Mike Thomas. Saturday features Lee Anne Bell as keynote speaker, concurrent sessions facilitated by outstanding writing project teachers from all over the nation, and our closing plenary.

We invite you to discover Little Rock for yourself while you're here. Just down President Clinton Avenue you'll find the Old State House Museum, where Bill Clinton announced his candidacy for the presidency in front of an audience of thousands, and where *Arkansas: A State and its Reputation* is currently on exhibit. Not far away, the Historical Arkansas Museum is exhibiting the model trains of Bill Albright, a retired teacher from Jacksonville, Arkansas, as well as, *We Walk in Two Worlds*, an exhibit telling the history of Arkansas' Indian tribes. Farther along the River Market, you'll find the Museum of Discovery, the Central Nature Center, and the Clinton Museum Store. Of course, you won't want to miss the unique shops and eateries along Little Rock's River Market District.

However, if all you're looking for is a great conference, then you will not be disappointed, and we are delighted to have you as our guests. If you have any questions, just look for a Great Bear volunteer in a purple vest, or visit the registration table.

The Great Bear Writing Project site is actually in the city of Conway, 25 miles north of Little Rock. However, in order to accommodate a conference of this size, and because of the proximity of two museums of national importance, we selected the city of our sister site, the Little Rock Writing Project, in which to host the 2011 Rural Sites Network conference. We would like you to know some information about our Great Bear city of Conway, so we have included some fun facts about our home.

Thanks so much for joining us!

Stephanie Vanderslice, Director
Mike Rush, Conference Committee Chair
Great Bear Writing Project, Conference Hosts

About the Rural Sites Network

The Rural Sites Network is a national network that supports National Writing Project sites as they work with educators and learners in rural settings.

GOALS

- To increase the capacity of NWP sites to generate research, develop resources, and provide professional development focusing on rural educational issues
- To explore and address the complex issues of teaching, working, and learning in rural settings
- To cultivate the knowledge, expertise, and leadership of writing project leaders and educators in rural settings

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RSN

Formed in 1992, the Rural Sites Network began with conversations among NWP site leaders who sought to identify what they had in common as site directors and classroom teachers in small towns and rural areas. Over time, they discovered several shared challenges: community attitudes that sometime make new ideas suspect and school reform difficult; tough economic circumstances, such as declining populations, school closings, and high poverty levels; and large service areas that made it hard for rural sites to provide school-based professional development and attract teachers to summer institutes and to continuity programs. Rural site leaders also identified strengths that are often associated with rural areas, such as, smaller schools and class sizes, close family and community connections, appreciation for natural resources and settings, and the power of place on teaching and learning.

In 1996, funding from the Annenberg Rural Challenge (now the Annenberg Rural School & Community Trust) enabled RSN teacher-consultants from six states to engage in place-based inquiry and reflection. The project, known as Rural Voices, Country Schools (RVCS), resulted in the creation of dynamic strategies for fostering community involvement in student learning and school reform. Today, RSN provides support for writing projects and educators as they discover new ways to build on the strengths and to address the challenges associated with teaching and learning in rural communities. Through minigrants, national meeting sessions, a bi-annual conference, resource development efforts, online communities, and links to other NWP programs, the RSN encourages educators to investigate place, honor diversity, conduct research, design community-based programs, and enrich the lives of citizens in small towns and rural communities. RSN national programs further NWP goals to increase member sites' capacity to carry out programs, strengthen professional development, facilitate cross-site communication, support research, and develop new ways of sharing rural educators' work at local and national levels.

PARTICIPATION

Membership in the Rural Sites Network is open, by self-nomination, to all NWP sites. For more information on RSN, see an RSN Leadership team member at the conference or visit

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/projects/63>.

Featured Speaker



Lee Anne Bell

Keynote Address

Professor Lee Anne Bell is the *Barbara Silver Horowitz* Director of Education at Barnard College. She directs the Education Program that serves undergraduates from Barnard and Columbia who seek certification to teach alongside their liberal arts majors. Professor Bell's scholarly work centers around issues of gender, race, and culture in educational settings and how these impact equity, access, and achievement in schools. Her publications focus on research in gender equity among racially diverse girls and women, theoretical and pedagogical work in social justice education, and research on racialization patterns in how "gatekeepers" in education and human services talk about race and racism.

Professor Bell's Storytelling Project, created through collaboration with artists and educators, provides a model for designing anti-racist and social justice curriculum in schools and in teacher education. She is currently working on a documentary film project, *Forty Years Later: Now Can We Talk?* This film brings together black and white alumni from the first integrated class at their high school in the Mississippi Delta. She is co-editor of *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice, A Sourcebook* with Maurianne Adams and Pat Griffin (Routledge, 2007) and author of *Storytelling for Social Justice: Connecting Narrative and the Arts in Antiracist Teaching* (Routledge, 2010).



Featured Speaker



Spirit Trickey-Rowan

Opening Banquet Speaker

Born and raised in northern Ontario, Canada, Spirit Trickey-Rowan is definitely a product of an eclectic environment and has the personality to match. After graduating from high school in Ottawa, Canada, she later moved with her mother, Minnijean Brown Trickey, to Little Rock, Arkansas, where she currently resides. Spirit finished her undergraduate work at the University of Arkansas

at Little Rock with a B.A. in Mass Communications and a minor in journalism.

Spirit is currently enrolled at the Clinton School of Public Service, working on her Master's Degree. She is the playwright of *One Ninth*, an exploration of human dignity and racial conflict as seen through the eyes of her mother, one of the students from the Little Rock Nine, who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Spirit recently created *Mixed Messages*, an independent documentary about the experiences of people with black and white heritages. Since 2002 Spirit has been an Interpretive Park Ranger at the Central High School National Historic Site in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Friday Social Musical Guests

Rackensack Folklore Society

David Peterson (hammered dulcimer, lap dulcimer) and Donna Peterson (guitar, voice) live in Greenbrier, Arkansas in a log house they built themselves. They have been teaching and performing folk music and dance in Arkansas and at numerous other venues for thirty-five years, often with their sons Eric and Chris. They also founded the Arkansas Country Dance Society in 1977. In addition to this, David, a retired University of Central Arkansas math professor, has made over 450 hammered dulcimers and other musical instruments. Rachel Lance (hammered dulcimer, lap dulcimer, fiddle) is a seventh grader from Conway and has been David's student for three years. Steven Lance (lap dulcimer) is Rachel's father and is also David's student. All four are performing members of the Rackensack Folklore Society of Little Rock.

Conway's street system includes 5 traffic circles, or roundabouts, and the mayor has plans for at least five more, saying he would like for Conway to be known as, "The City of Circles."

Friday Pre-Conference Events

Event #1: Creating Opportunities for English Language Learners

8:30 am – 3:00 pm (*Hoffman*)

Teachers who may have from minimal to extensive experience with English language learners will have an opportunity to share their own practices, raise questions and engage in constructive conversations about developing cultural literacy, writing with English learners, understanding migrant students and building site capacity in rural areas.

Sponsored by: NWP's ELL Network

Event #2: Tour of the Clinton Library

9:00 am – 11:30 am (*Meet in the Peabody lobby at 8:30 am*)

This premiere pre-conference event begins with a short trolley ride down President Clinton Avenue to the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum. Once there, participants will take a guided tour lasting approximately 90 minutes. The remaining hour can be spent viewing the featured exhibit "Dr. Seuss", as well as any of the 78 million pages of official records, two million photographs, or 12,500 videotapes documenting the life and career of the 42nd President of the United States. Return trips by trolley are made every 20 minutes, so you can leave the museum at your leisure.



Led by: Pat Roberson, *Great Bear WP*

Event #3: River Market Writing Marathon

9:00 am – 11:30 am (*Meet in the Peabody lobby at 8:45 am*)

This writing marathon will take participants through the famed River Market along President Clinton Avenue. Little Rock's unique River Market is the vibrant epicenter of downtown's entertainment district, featuring venues such as the Ottenheimer Market Hall with its comfortable seating section, the Old State House Museum, Ten Thousand Villages, a shop with handmade items from all over the world, and the Little Rock library. You'll find many interesting places for reflective writing.



Led by: Monda Fason, *Great Bear WP*

Friday Pre-Conference Events

Event #4: Central High School Historic Tour

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm *(Meet in the Peabody lobby at 1:15 pm)*

The year was 1957 and then-governor, Orville Faubus, in defiant opposition to the Supreme Court's historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision, called out the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the "Little Rock Nine" from entering Central High School. For this tour, participants will be shuttled to the museum, where they will meet with a National Park Ranger for a 30-40 minute description of the events that took place during that turbulent time in Little Rock history. Afterward, they will tour the museum viewing exhibits that include video footage, thousands of photos and oral histories.

Led by: Denise Jenkins, *Great Bear WP*

The city of Conway was founded by Asa P. Robinson, when the Little Rock-Fort Smith Railroad (now the Union Pacific), compensated him, in part, with the deed to a tract of land, one square mile. Later, he laid off a town site around the new train depot and named it Conway Station, in honor of a famous Arkansas family.



Event #5: Argenta Writing Marathon

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm *(Meet in the Peabody lobby at 1:15 pm)*

The Argenta Writing Marathon will begin with a short trolley ride from the Peabody Hotel across the Arkansas River to the historic downtown North Little Rock area known as Argenta. During the trolley ride, the conductor will point out various historic sites and give information about the area. Once off the trolley, it won't take you long to find just the right writing spot within the few blocks that includes art galleries, shops, restaurants and pubs, historic architecture, sports arenas, and a walking trail along the river.

Led by: Shari Williams, *Great Bear WP*



Opening Banquet & Keynote

OPENING BANQUET **6:00-8:15 PM, Friday**

Join us at 4:45 in the Salon Foyer for light snacks and refreshment from the cash bar. The Peabody ducks will march at 5:00 and can be viewed from the balcony. Afterward, return to the Salon Foyer, refresh your drink and browse through the displays provided by the four sites of Arkansas. Enjoy viewing digital stories created by Arkansas students.

4:45-6:00 Light snacks and cocktails
6:00-8:15 Opening Banquet

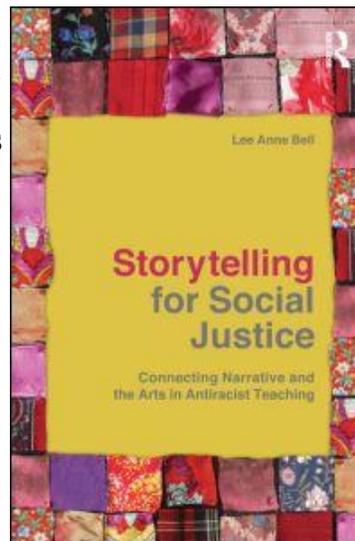
Salons B and C

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: LEE ANNE BELL **8:30-9:45 AM, Saturday**

Storytelling for Social Justice: The Power of Narrative to Create Change

The power of story and place have long influenced rural teaching and learning. Through her storytelling for social justice model, Bell invites educators to speak, write, and act with courage, offering stories of hope where inequities exist. Bell offers a conceptual and pedagogical model for teaching through examining the kinds of stories we tell and for imagining alternative stories that account for history, power and systemic, normalizing patterns that justify inequality. She invites the audience to consider how they might use counter-storytelling to promote more critical and thoughtful dialogue about racism and other social injustices that exist in the places where we teach and live.

Salons B and C



An Invitation to Tell Your Story for the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives (DALN)

The Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives (DALN) is a publicly available archive of personal literacy narratives in a variety of formats (text, video, audio), which provides a historical record of literacy practices and values of contributors. The DALN invites people of all ages, races, communities, backgrounds, and interests to contribute stories about how — and in what circumstances — they read, write, and compose meaning, and how they learned to do so (or helped others learn). The DALN welcomes personal narratives about reading and composing all kinds of texts, both formal and informal.

As a special feature at Rural Sites this year, the Little Rock Writing Project will be recording literacy stories on **Saturday, March 12 in the Peck Room, Salon Level**, from 2:15 – 3:30 pm. We hope you will come tell us your stories, which, as part of the Digital Archive of Literacy Narrative, will be unique artifacts capturing historical and contemporary perspectives on learning and teaching in rural schools and communities. To learn more, visit <http://daln.osu.edu>

Digging Up Arkansas

Digging Up Arkansas is an original play presented by Walton Arts Center, written by Northwest Arkansas Writing Project Teacher Consultant Mike Thomas and performed by Trike Theatre. It tells the story of three writers from the Federal Writer's Project who invite students to study and organize historic artifacts before President Roosevelt's scheduled arrival to Arkansas in 1936. They explore historical Arkansas moments and discover how Communication, Cooperation, Courage and Culture have shaped the state's history. Topics investigated include Arkansas' first people, the Arkansas Post, the Civil War and the introduction of electricity to rural Arkansas. The play incorporates 3rd through 5th grade Arkansas history concepts and aligns with Arkansas curriculum goals.

Digging Up Arkansas uses visual art, music and drama to make facts about Arkansas's past memorable, meaningful and relevant. Students are invited into the "WPA research tent" and their participation becomes part of the play's action. The self-contained play will be performed in school cafeterias and gymnasiums throughout the state this spring with funding from the Windgate Charitable Foundation, Arkansas Community Foundation, Arkansas Humanities Council, TL Foundation, Shipley Motor Company, Tyson, Kraft and generous individual donors. Teacher resources developed in partnership with the Northwest Arkansas Writing Project can be found online at <http://waltonartscenter.org/education>

Saturday events

ROUND I: 10:00 - 11:15 A.M.

Session A: Collaborative Partnerships on Behalf of Migrant Students

Pretta Condon, Janice Linhares-Great Valley WP, CA

The Great Valley Writing Project shares the multiple benefits of their partnership with Migrant Education, which has allowed them to work as mentors to the Mini Corps Preserves teachers, who serve as aides in their Migrant Education Summer Youth Academies. This interactive session will discuss possibilities for teachers to include aides in lesson planning and teaching, share insights from Mini Corps para-educators, and describe the impact of this partnership on site work.

Strands: ELL Instruction; Site Development

Hoffman

Session B: The Face of Rurality: Valuing Student Lives Through Digital Storytelling

*Shelly Maledy-Martin, Tammy Morton-Ozarks WP, MO
Donna Wake-Great Bear WP, AR*

Digital storytelling is a writing approach appropriate for kindergartners to adults. This session shares low-cost and free digital resources that are available to teachers interested in teaching writing through digital stories. Participants will see examples of ways that students explore identity, perspective, and issues specific to their rural places through digital storytelling.

Strands: Digital Literacy; Classroom Instruction

Manning

Session C: Meeting the Needs of Rural Writers: From Invention to Revision to Assessment

*Frank Dehoney-Boise State WP, ID
Nancy Devine, Pamela Fisher-Red River Valley WP, ND*

This session provide teachers with techniques for supporting students in a variety of writing contexts. Participants will examine ways to help students generate writing and extend their thinking through writing. Participants will also examine student writing through the lens of NWP's Analytical Writing Continuum.

Strand: Teaching Revision

Lafayette

Session D: Reaching Out and Drawing In: Literacy Practices of Adolescents in Military Families Experiencing Deployment

Vicki Sherbert-Flint Hills WP, KS

Located within twenty miles of a major military installation, the Flint Hills Writing Project offers support to teachers serving a diverse population of students in rural schools. This presentation will share insight into how the out-of-school literacy practices of adolescents help mediate stress when a family member experiences deployment. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect upon their own literacy practices, as well as those of their students who may be experiencing stressful circumstances.

Strand: Out-Of-School Literacy Practices

Fireplace Room

Session E: Collaborative Classrooms: Connecting Urban and Rural Students Through Writing

Katie Kline, Michael Prior-Greater Kansas City WP, MO

This session shares how suburban, rural and urban teachers collaborated to create literacy projects to help students examine stereotypes they have about their peers living in different environments. Facilitators will share strategies for creating successful partnerships with teachers across distances, for navigating school policies to give online access to students, for practicing tough conversations about race, class and stereotypes, and for creating online writing projects for students.

Strands: Classroom Instruction; Digital Literacy

Petit Jean

Session F: If the Earth Could Speak: Narrating Stories for Environmental Health and Justice

Lee Anne Bell, Barnard College

Join Lee Anne Bell, keynote speaker, to continue a discussion of her Storytelling Project Model. Lee Anne will share ways teachers can use storytelling to create alternate narratives which transcend the supposed duality between economic progress and environmental sustainability.

Strands: Classroom Instruction; Social Justice Teaching

Grampas

Session G: Figuring Out the Problem: Improving Math and Writing Literacy in the Rural Classroom

Susan Al-Jarrah, Sharon Martin-Oklahoma State University WP, OK

Often in rural schools, one math teacher constitutes the math department and one English teacher constitutes the English department – sometimes the same teacher constitutes both. The purpose of this interactive, hands-on session will be to demonstrate how rural math and English teachers can empower their students to overcome illiteracy in both content areas. Anyone interested in social justice math research or pedagogy is welcome.

Strands: Content Area Writing; Social Justice Teaching

Chicot

Session H: Partnerships for the Common Good: Democratic Citizenship Through Writing, New Media, and the Arts

Kate Larken, Nancye McCrary, Susan Wood-Bluegrass WP, KY

This interactive session details an exciting, integrated curriculum that focuses on student-centered collaborative learning, real-world inquiry, transformative civics education, and the power of student writing that uses art, new media, and the humanities to inspire democratic action. Appropriate for teachers P-20, the examples used will come from teachers and students working in the context of 8th-grade social studies.

Strands: Classroom Instruction; Arts Integration

Ouachita

Session I: Oil Spills, Natural Gas Discoveries and Outsiders: Fostering Resiliency in the Face of Change

*Paula Callender, Melanie Morgan, Jacque Shuford-Northwestern State University WP, LA
David Pulling, Margaret Simon-Acadiana WP, LA*

This interactive session shares how teachers from two sites use content area writing and digital writing to enable marginalized rural students to take control of their learning. Participants will explore ways that place-based curricula help rural students foster resiliency, understand the environmental changes taking place in their communities, and use writing as a change agent to both explore and improve the communities where they live.

Strands: Classroom Instruction, Place-Conscious Education

Neosho

LUNCH: 11:30 – 12:45 P.M.

Salons B and C

ROUND II: 12:45 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Session A: Focus on Establishing the Classroom Environment in Which to Serve Your ELL Students

Cecilia Patee-Boise State WP, ID

This session will engage teachers in thinking about, planning for and implementing a democratic classroom environment. An inclusive, democratic classroom has many benefits: multiple opportunities to learn and practice oral English, an increase in relevant work for ELLs, and the development of relationships leading to harmonious conversations. The session addresses challenges in connecting with and engaging ELL students and provides a framework for planning lessons for ELL students.

Strands: ELL Instruction; Classroom Instruction

Hoffman

Session B: The Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives

Ann Beck, Sally Crisp, Greg Graham, Jeremy Owoh-Little Rock WP, AR

Stories of individuals' experiences learning to read and write are being collected by the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives (DALN) at Ohio State University. Participants will learn how one Writing Project site contributed to DALN and will consider how their sites, schools, and universities can take part in DALN's efforts to compile a rich repository of literacy narratives. Participants will also be invited to compose and share their own literacy stories.

Strands: Teacher Writing; Developing Literacy Narratives

Manning

Session C: Talking Back to Stereotypes

Wendy Warren-Montana WP, MT

Let's empower our students to talk back to stereotypes! This interactive session is for teachers of grades 4-16 as well as NWP site directors. The reading, Powerpoint example and poetry writing that are a part of the session are meant to act as a catalyst for envisioning a year-long teaching theme that integrates Language Arts, Social Studies and issues of humanity.

Strands: Social Justice Teaching; Critical Literacy

Lafayette

Session D: Using Anonymous Feedback to Support Writing

Joyce Sheheey-National Writing Project in Vermont, VT

Mike Rush-Great Bear WP, AR

Two members from NWP's E-Anthology leadership team will demonstrate how giving anonymous feedback to writers – electronically on the E-Anthology -- models and fosters risk taking among student writers as they allow others to evaluate their work. The session allows participants to provide feedback to one another's writing in a non-threatening manner. This session is appropriate for any classroom teacher and is modeled after the E-Anthology.

Strand: Teaching Response and Revision

Fireplace Room

Session E: Digital Composition Institute: Place-Based Writing

Kathy Miller, Debbie Schwebach-Prairie Lands, MO

This session explores place-based writing with a digital twist. Learn how Prairie Lands Writing Project teacher consultants used the Web to plan and deliver place-based digital composition institutes for area teachers—simultaneously in two rural locales. Try out one or more place-based writing prompts and rate the digital exemplars which teachers created at the institute.

Strands: Digital Literacy; Site Development; Inservice Models

Petit Jean

Session F: Digital Is...Demystifying Inquiry for Rural Educators

Danielle Ange Lewis, Stephanie West-Puckett-Tar River WP, NC

This session features a digital archive, including a series of digital stories, that seeks to promote conversations about educational equity, demystify the inquiry process, and couch teacher-inquiry as the most nimble way to improve teaching and learning for all. After reviewing the archive, session participants will be invited to think with its co-creators about making it more useful and creating their own virtual archives to support rural site work.

Strands: Teacher Inquiry; Site Development

Grampas

Acxiom Corporation, a global interactive marketing services company that uses consumer data, analytics, information technology, data integration, and consulting solutions to help companies conduct direct marketing programs, was founded in 1969 in Conway and though it has its corporate headquarters in Little Rock, AR, a large presence in Conway still remains.

Session G: Partnerships and Professional Learning Communities: Building Relationships with Isolated Rural Schools

*Lauren Skvarla-Oklahoma State University WP, OK
Jennifer Allen, Cat Pleska-Central West WP, WV*

This session addresses the successes and challenges of creating inservice for rural schools. Participants will write and share about their own experiences with providing inservice to rural schools and learn how teacher leaders from two sites created successful programs to address specific local school needs.

Strands: Site Development; Inservice Models

Chicot

Session H: Adapting the Resource Development Retreat for Site Continuity

*Laura Tracy Baisden, Diana Clay, Debra Holly, Velma Workman-Marshall University WP,
Coalfield Writers Satellite, WV*

This session shares an adaptation of the RSN Resource Development Retreat Model, used as site continuity to foster leadership and develop professional scholarship among teacher consultants. This session is appropriate for those interested in site development and leadership building strategies. Facilitators will share strategies, schedules, motivations, challenges and results of their work. Participants will have time for questions and to begin a plan for developing resources at their sites.

Strands: Site Development; Continuity

Ouachita

Session I: Priming the Pump with Children's Literature

Kelly Buckley, Janie Weber-Northwest Arkansas WP, AR

This session will feature several pieces of children's literature that lead to opportunities for thinking and writing about equity. Examples will include challenging picture books, poetry, and chapter books. Participants will be encouraged to view children's literature with a new appreciation for provocative thinking and explore the costs and benefits of social justice teaching in the elementary grades.

Strands: Classroom Practice; Critical Literacy

Neosho

Kris Allen, the winner of *American Idol* in Season 8, was the music leader at a Conway church when he took his brother to audition and, just for fun, auditioned himself.

ROUND III: 2:15 – 3:30 P.M.

Session A: Building Capacity for Supporting ELLs in Rural School Communities

Nancy Coco-Penn State Lehigh WP, PA

How can rural school communities develop strength and readiness for welcoming and supporting language learners in their new environment when needed resources are often scarce? This interactive session will examine systematic approaches for cultivating attitudes and resources that build school capacity and contribute to productive, equitable learning opportunities for English Language Learners.

Strands: ELL Instruction; Site Development

Hoffman

Session B: Going the Distance: Meeting the Professional Development Needs of Rural Educators

Gail Bourn, Lois Juris-Plymouth WP, NH

Nancy Knowles, Carol Nelson, Bonnie Warne-Northwest Inland WP, ID

In this interactive session, leaders from three sites will share several models of professional development that have been successful for them. This session will provide a forum for inservice coordinators, site directors and teacher consultants to share ideas and work together to think about developing inservices that meet the unique needs of both new and experienced rural teachers.

Strands: Site Development; Inservice Models

Manning

Session C: Digital Is: How Can We Leverage Digital Writing to Create Opportunities for ALL Rural Students?

Christina Cantrill-NWP

Ken Martin-Maine WP, ME

Stephanie Vanderslice-Great Bear WP, AR

The new NWP "Digital Is" website offers resources for teachers and writing project sites to focus conversation on and inquiry into what it means for writing to be digital through supporting the creation, dissemination and discussion of digital resources about inquiry and practice. The goals of this session are to share a few initial resources that have already been collected by rural educators about their work and then focus on aspects of equity raised in the context of thinking about digital writing, teaching and learning and to provide an opportunity for participants to consider how they could participate and contribute to the conversations themselves.

Strands: Digital Literacy; Teacher Inquiry

Lafayette

Session D: Bringing Voices Forward: Vignettes of Writing and Growing as a NWP Rural Site

Tim Bennett, Dixie Keyes, Crystal Micheli-White, Lori McKenzie, Erica Sockwell-Arkansas Delta WP, AR

The Arkansas Delta Writing Project site shares the importance of collecting stories of their site. The facilitators will share the process they use to help teachers recount the multi-layered voices of their students and the stories of their lives as teachers. Teachers and site leaders will benefit from learning how to capture stories through dramatic readings and retellings and small group writing time.

Strands: Teacher Writing; Summer Institute

Fireplace Room

Session E: Integrating Native American Culture in the Classroom: Practices that Respond to Rural Diversity

*Dixie Linn-Norberg, Lil Manthei-Dakota WP, SD
Lori Heiserich-Red River Valley, WP, ND*

In this interactive session, teachers from two writing projects will share how they integrate Native culture into their curriculums. The session will include a discussion about classroom practices and the creative use of technology to teach cultural awareness. Participants will receive a bibliography of resources for teaching historical truths about our nation's history with Native Americans.

Strand: Teaching Native Learners

Petit Jean

Session F: Bringing Web 2.0 to Town: Using Technology to Enhance Student Learning in Rural Areas

*Danielle Helzer-Nebraska WP, NE
Andrea Zellner-Red Cedar WP, MI*

In this workshop, participants will consider their digital identities and philosophies as they unpack the issues surrounding social media and consider the ways in which online tools such as Google Docs can enhance not only their classroom teaching but also rural site communication and planning. Through shared inquiry processes, participants will discover how to manage the ubiquitous elements of an increasingly complex digital world.

Strand: Digital Literacy

Grampas

Session G: Digital Writing Marathon: Staying Connected in a Rural State

Reva Potter, Lindsay Sorenson-Dakota WP, SD

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the use of digital writing in the classroom, to share practical applications for digital writing across the curriculum, and to explore uses of digital writing in inservice programs. This session will share how digital writing marathons can be meaningful inservice and promote digital literacy among teachers and students.

Strands: Digital Literacy; Inservice Models

Chicot

Session H: What Doesn't Need Fixing: Overcoming Negative Stereotypes of Rural Education with 21st Century Place-Conscious Writing

Laura Hargis, Carol Kelly, Lisa Rougeou-Northwestern State University WP, LA

This interactive presentation is for educators wanting to explore issues of what's "right" with rural education. Presenters will share the results of their work with teachers and students who used Web 2.0 tools to create and share place-conscious writing activities that instill pride in students and their teachers about where they're from and what they know. Participants will engage in activities and view artifacts from the work.

Stands: Digital Literacy; Place-Conscious Education

Ouchita

Session I: Getting a Head Start: A Professional Development Protocol for New Teachers in Rural Settings

Sara Jennings, Jennifer Montgomery-Western Kentucky University WP, KY

New teachers in rural settings face unique challenges. These challenges can be overwhelming unless teachers are supported by experienced colleagues and meaningful professional development. This workshop shares a protocol in which Writing Project teacher consultants support new teachers as they use literacy strategies in all grades and subjects. This session shares insights into starting new teacher support groups in your area.

Stands: Site Development; Inservice Models

Neosho

CLOSING PLENARY: 3:45-4:30 P.M.

Marla Morgan, Stephanie Vanderslice, RSN Leadership Team, Co-chairs

Join us for a final session where we write, reflect, and think about the future of rural education and the work of the Rural Sites Network.

Salon B

One of the city's largest annual events, Conway's Toad Suck Daze, has been held since 1982. The three day community festival incorporates live music, food and craft vendors, and amusement rides during the first weekend of May. Proceeds from the festival fund college scholarships for local students.

Rural Sites Network Leadership Team

*Jennifer Conrad-Third Coast WP
Debbie Dehoney-Boise State University WP
Brenda Johnston-Montana WP
Sue McIntyre-Redwood WP
Marla Morgan-High Plains WP, Co-chair
David Pulling-NWP of Acadiana
Amy Schrader-Upstate WP
Stephanie Vanderslice-Great Bear WP, Co-chair
Tanisha Westerfield-MSU Writing/Thinking Project*

*Lynette Herring-Harris-NWP Thinking Partner
Rick Snodgrass-NWP Program Specialist*

Special Thanks

- The National Writing Project
- Stephanie Vanderslice, Marla Morgan and the Rural Sites Network Leadership Team
- University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR
- The entire Great Bear Writing Project
- Arkansas Delta WP-Dixie Keyes, Dir.
- Northwest Arkansas WP-Chris Goering, Dir.
- Little Rock WP-Sally Crisp, Dir.
- Huey Crisp and Antonio Carroll, drivers
- Niki White, Peabody Hotel
- George Boehringer at AVISPL, Peabody Hotel
- Riceland Foods, Inc., Stuttgart, AR
- Tyson Foods, Inc., Springdale, AR
- Oxford American, Little Rock, AR
- Conway Printing Company, Inc., Conway, AR
- Aromatique, Heber Springs, AR
- Post Familie Vineyards, Altus, AR
- Wiederkehr Wine Cellars, Wiederkehr Village, AR
- The Little Rock Convention and Visitors' Bureau
- The Conference and Hospitality staff at the Little Rock Peabody
- All our session facilitators and conference attendees

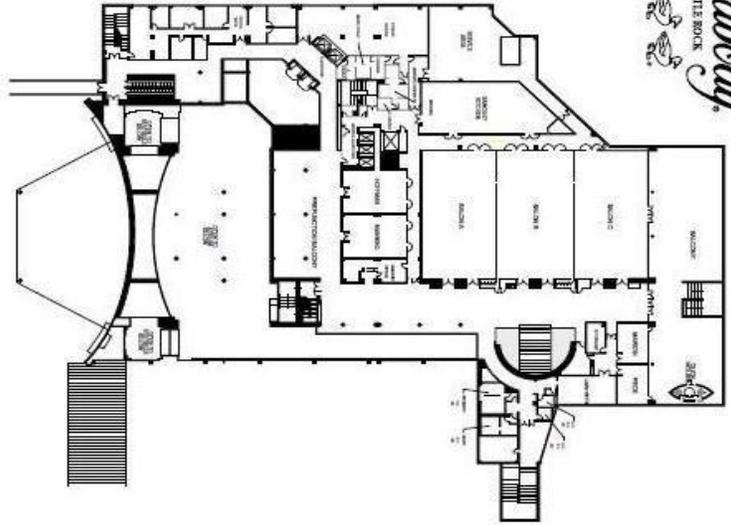
Conference Volunteers

The conference coordinators wish to thank all the Teacher Consultants of the Great Bear Writing Project for their outstanding effort and support!

Lori Bell, Janie Brown, Jane Carpenter, Jennifer Deering, Monda Fason, Cindy Green, Kathy Helmer, Carol Jehlen, Denise Jenkins, Eulea Kiraly, Mary Matthews, Pat Roberson, Shauna Sanders, Illene Stewart, Shari Williams, Trina Williams

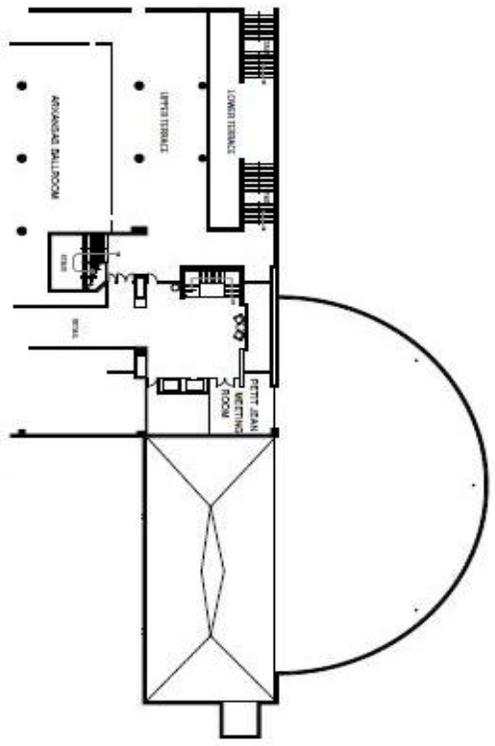
The Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre is the state's only professional Shakespeare theatre and it is based in Conway with an annual summer festival held in June.

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MEETING ROOMS/BALL ROOM LEVEL

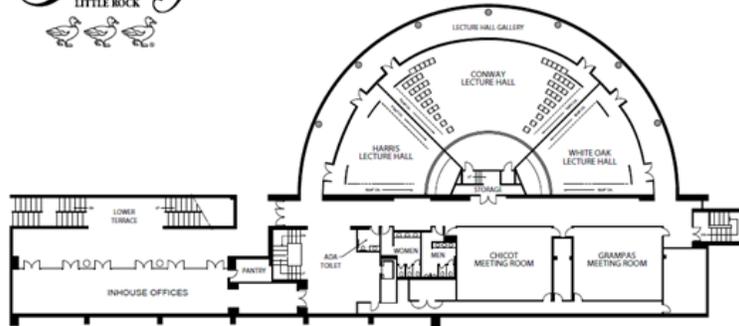
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CONFERENCE-3 LEVEL

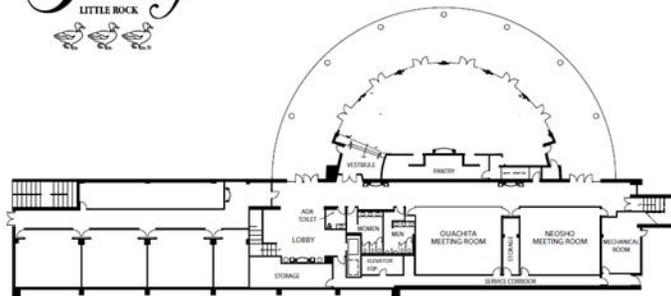
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LECTURE HALL
LEVEL 2

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RIVERSIDE
LEVEL 1

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National Writing Project
*Improving Writing and Learning
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