

NWP Newsbriefs

Watch for Bigger, Better NWP D.C. Day(s)

NWP's annual D.C. event in 1999 will be bigger and better than ever. For the first time, a day-long spring directors meeting will follow our typical day on The Hill. We hope to have record attendance at our D.C. event this year as we gear up for the NWP reauthorization process. (See story, page 1.)

We will begin at the Capitol on Thursday, April 15, with a morning meeting in the Mansfield Room of the Senate Building. Speakers will include our key supporters in the House and Senate, as well as a special guest speaker to be announced later. Thursday afternoon will be set aside for directors and teachers to make personal visits to their Senators and Representatives. On Friday, April 16, we will convene for our spring NWP directors meeting, focused on federal programs and issues.

We have secured accommodations at the Holiday Inn on The Hill for this meeting, just a few short blocks from the Capitol. Look for more information about this important meeting as the time approaches. We will be compiling a participant list in January.

Focus on Standards Underway

Focus on Standards, a new NWP network funded by the Stuart Foundation, is an outstanding combination of teacher research and documentation. Four teams of nine TCs from Area 3 WP, San Diego Area WP, Puget Sound WP, and Central Washington WP are participating

The project began in July with a mini-institute where we discussed our work for the next three years. How do we communicate the standards we work with to students, parents, colleagues, and the community? How do we know that the standards we use are helping our students become better readers and writers—all students, including second-language and special needs students? How can we use the NWP model to address standards?

Our first year focuses on making classroom sense of this work. We will document what we teach and our teaching approaches, what standards are being addressed, which students' writing weaknesses are being addressed, and what we use to assess achievement. We will reflect on what students are learning and how their achievements miss, meet or exceed the standards. We will also collect student work that illustrates writing improvement and achievement of the standards.