The NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
NETWORK NEWS

(Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities)

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From the Desk of Jim Gray

NATIONAL NETWORK ESTABLISHED

With this newsletter we become a Network, and NEH's National Writing Project becomes a reality. The Mid-South Writing Project and the Prairie Writing Project and the New York City Writing Project and the Texas Hill Country Writing Project and the over thirty other projects all across the country that have been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Bay Area Writing Project can inform each other of practices, inservice activities, evaluation, and other happenings that might serve as useful precedent. In order to do this, we will need a steady flow of information from all the sites.

There are now forty-one sites at campuses in twenty-four states. In response to the inquiries we have received over the past year BAWP has sent out sixty-three copies of the new 1979-1980 Guidelines. With our current NEH gifts-and-matching grant, we will be able to support 15 new writing projects at maximum funding and some projects at minimum levels.

The pooling of information from this growing network of writing projects should provide a valuable resource for improving the teaching of composition. Send contributions of any length to

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BAY AREA WRITING PROJECT

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NEH THANKS

The newly formed National Writing Project, an association of forty-three independent writing projects, owes its existence to the National Endowment for the Humanities. NEH recognized in the original Bay Area Writing Project a concept worth sharing. Since funding the initial NEH grants that established BAWP and its first satellites, NEH has funded three amendments providing for gifts and matching funds to establish sites nationwide.

Thanks to the firm footing provided by these initial grants, the National Writing Project has attracted other major funding sources. In keeping with their traditions of support for innovations in education, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Kerr Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, the Sachem Fund and others have made possible additional sites and expanded goals.

The California State Department of Education supports a network of cooperating projects statewide, providing funding for meetings and channels of communication within various state agencies.

Throughout the development of the Project, NEH has continued to provide guidance and support to old and new sites. NEH's latest grant makes possible this newsletter and the current efforts to establish close and fruitful communication among project staffs across the country.