



UPDATE

DE STEFANO TALKS ON ADULT LITERACY

"Workplace literacy programs are on the increase, but little investigation has been done into how and whether they actually work," according to Johanna DeStefano, Professor at Ohio State University, who spoke at the opening seminar in CSWL's Fall Seminar Series at UC Berkeley on Thursday, September 2.

The study described by DeStefano focused on four "urban Appalachians" who had voluntarily enrolled in the workplace literacy program sponsored by their employer. These men entered the automobile industry as craftspersons and operatives who were able to earn high wages in spite of low literacy skills. Now, however, they are faced with the elimination of their jobs as the industry becomes increasingly automated. They are being transferred to new positions which require high-level literacy skills and where they will not be able to hide their inadequacies. Unfortunately, most of the adult literacy programs available to these men are limited by lack of funds and poorly trained personnel.

Workplace literacy programs are among the few opportunities available to them, and too little is known about such programs to accurately assess their potential for doing the job. In American's present "literacy crisis," however, DeStefano feels we must take decisive action to confront the problem of adult illiteracy if we are not to continue as "a nation of inequities."



The Center Update was prepared by James E. Lobdell

CENTER ACTIVITIES AT NCTE

The National Council of Teachers of English will hold its annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 17-22, 1993. At NCTE, the following sessions involving Center researchers are scheduled:

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WW.9. Making Thinking Visible: Collaborative Planning and Classroom Inquiry

Linda Flower, co-chair

Saturday Afternoon, 3:45-5:00

I.20. The Social Construction of Literacy: Perspectives and Issues for Integration

Sarah Warshauer Freedman, Martin Nystrand and Colette Daiute, speakers

Saturday Evening, 5:30-6:30

SG.7. How to Prepare a Teacher Researcher Proposal for Funding

Sarah Warshauer Freedman, chair

Sunday Morning, 8:30-9:45

Research Roundtable: The Riches of Research

Linda Flower, speaker

Sunday Afternoon, 3:00-4:14

L.12 Through Multiple Windows: Perspectives on the Relationship Between Writing and its Context(s)

Anne DiPardo, Melanie Sperling, and Susan Richardson, speakers

Sunday Afternoon, 3:00-5:00

LM.03. The Need for Story: Cultural Diversity in Classroom and Community

Anne Haas Dyson, Mengshui Cai, Rudine Simms Bishop, Geneva Smitherson, Maxine Greene, and Celia Genishi, speakers

Monday Afternoon, 2:00-3:15.

P.6. Collaboration in Community Literacy: A Study of Urban Teenagers and College Mentors Crossing Boundaries of Culture and Discourse

Wayne C. Peck, Elenore Long, Joyce A. Baskins, Lorraine Higgins, Donald E. Tucker, and Linda Flower, speakers