
NWP**&****UPDATE**

Project Outreach is Almost Here

The National Writing Project has been awarded a four-year \$2 million grant from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. The grant is earmarked for the NWP's Project Outreach, a network aimed specifically at improving writing instruction in schools with large numbers of students from low-income backgrounds. Eighteen rural, urban and suburban sites will be chosen to participate in the first phase of the program.

With this grant, the Dewitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund continues the assistance it has provided the National Writing Project since 1991 when a grant from the Fund made possible creation of the Urban Sites Network, a professional development network engaging 10 urban sites. The latest grant continues the Fund's mission, which is to foster fundamental improvement in the quality of educational and career development opportunities for all school-age youth and to increase access to these improved services for young people in low-income communities.

"Our grant will enable the NWP to reach even more teachers who work with low-income youth," said George V. Grune, chairman of the Fund. "Many of these teachers are in locations where they don't have access to the kind of quality professional development that can help them increase their teaching skills so they can serve their students."

NWP executive director Richard Sterling concurs. "This grant will allow us to provide resources to Writing Projects in places where they are scarce, where children in schools face difficult barriers to effective learning and where teachers face a wide array of obstacles that prevent effective instruction."

According to Elyse Eidman-Aadahl, director of Project Outreach, sites participating in the Project will strive to serve 20 percent more teachers of low-income stu-

dents each year than they currently do, and their development programs will be more relevant to the needs of these educators. In addition, Project Outreach sites will work hard to increase the diversity of the local project leadership.

All NWP sites have been invited to apply for participation in Project Outreach. Applications must arrive at the NWP office no later than January 31, 1996. A twelve-person National Leadership Team will select the 18 sites for the first phase of the Project Outreach network.

Sites which are selected will participate in a national conversation about effective professional development and will receive annual site grants to support local self-study related to the objectives of the program.

According to Eidman-Aadahl, "The Project Outreach network will have an opportunity for sites that want to make self-study a priority of the next three years. They'll be able to leave the project with a much clearer understanding of their past and present work, and they'll have clearly defined goals for improving teaching and learning among kids from low income families."

Fred Hechinger, Friend of Education

The National Center for the Study of Writing is saddened by the loss of our National Advisory Board chair, Fred M. Hechinger. We will miss his wise counsel, generous guidance, and influential writing on behalf of school children. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Grace, and his sons.

—Sarah Warshauer Freedman, CSW Director