

writing math  
technology  
science drama  
art & history  
learn

National Writing Project

*2009 annual report*

**writing**



*in its many forms is the signature means of communication in the 21st century. The NWP envisions a future where*

## MISSION

The National Writing Project  
focuses the knowledge, expertise,  
and leadership of our nation's  
educators on sustained efforts  
to improve writing and learning  
for all learners.

*every person is an accomplished writer, engaged learner, and active participant in a digital, interconnected world.*

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD  
AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Writing as a tool for thinking, learning, and communicating is crucial to academic and career success as well as to active citizenship in a democracy.

In this annual report you will meet teachers of math, chemistry, art, history, and business who develop their students as writers. You will meet a director of pre-kindergarten programs who models the writing she hopes her young students will practice. These educators employ writing to engage their students more deeply and move them to higher levels of thinking. These and other teacher-leaders are the heart of the National Writing Project—effective, accomplished educators who are pivotal to positive changes in teaching and in student achievement.

Our ongoing research supports the development of innovative approaches that are vital to teaching and learning in this digital age. For example, at our Summer Institutes, teachers learn about new digital tools for writing and how to integrate technologies into classroom lessons. They share ways to help students use writing to improve Web-based or multimedia productions—from blogs to digital stories, across subject areas.

We invite you to learn more about the NWP network of more than 200 university-based sites and about the remarkable educators who find inventive ways to share the power of writing with their students.

Donald McQuade  
Chair of the Board

Sharon J. Washington  
Executive Director

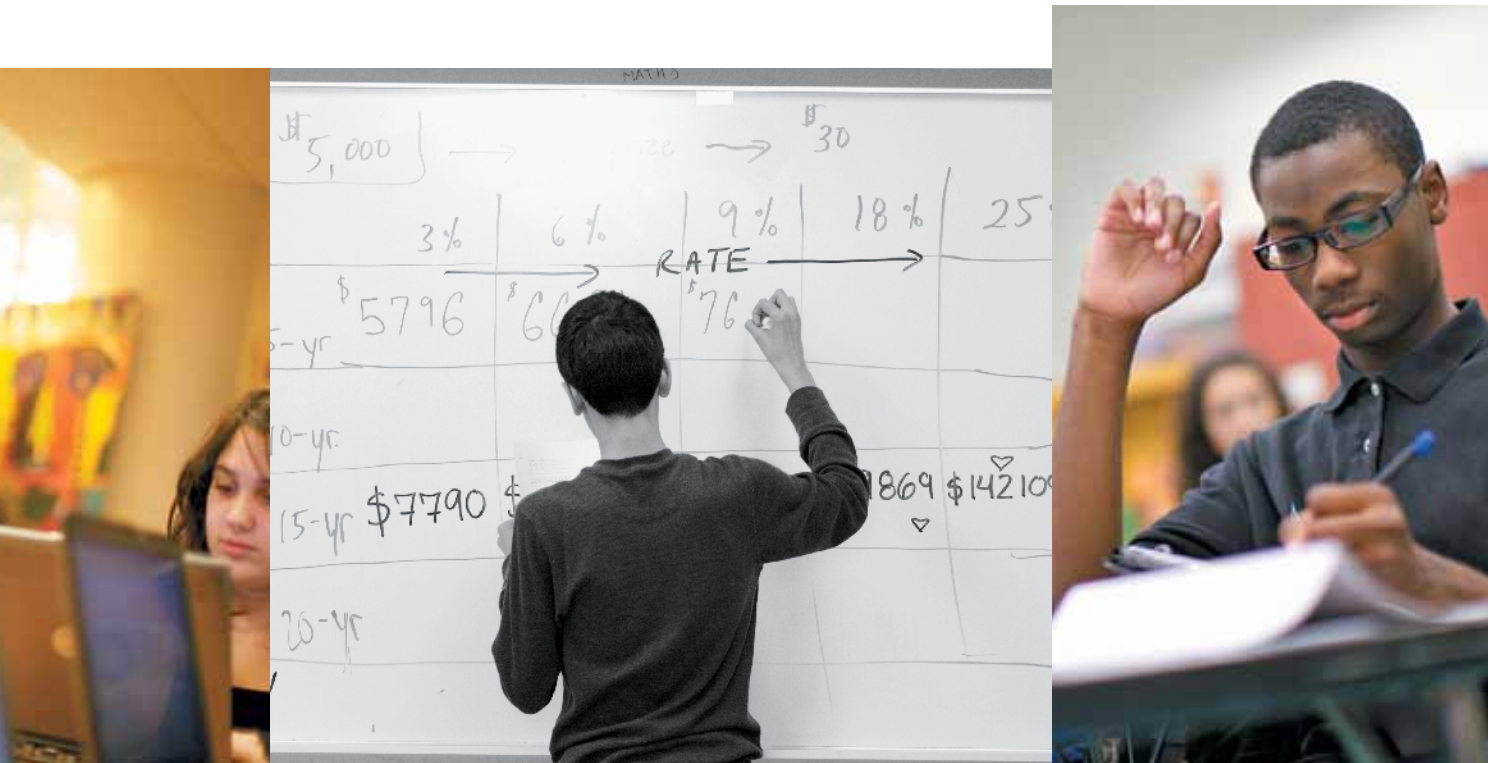
The Writing Project is getting into our classrooms, it's being passed on, and it's radically

# improving



*Tom Murray, Robert F. Wagner Jr. Secondary School for Arts & Technology, Long Island City, NY, New York City Writing Project, Subject: Math*

# instruction.



Some students in Tom Murray's middle school classes naturally love math, straight out of the book. More students do best when they integrate math into larger projects: a display with geometric shapes in colors and patterns they love, or the budget for an imagined business. Whatever his approach, Murray puts writing in the mix. "If you can express it in writing, then you know it," he says. "That's the hardest thing for our kids,

even the brightest kids—to write down their understanding so that someone else can understand it." A classroom veteran, Murray found renewal in on-site professional development provided by the New York City Writing Project. "I like being connected, and we all need professional development that doesn't start and stop," he says. "It's making a difference for our teachers and our students."





*Katherine Suyeyasu, ASCEND School (K–8), Oakland, CA, Bay Area Writing Project, Subject: Humanities*

Critical reading and writing are two sides of a coin in Katherine Suyeyasu’s classes. She teaches her eighth-grade students to explore history’s “very compelling questions” as they learn to read primary and secondary sources with an analytical eye. Was the abolitionist John Brown a hero or a violent fanatic? Who was the greater leader for the Cherokee nation, the one who urged his people to

stay put or the one who spoke for relocation? Through writing, Suyeyasu helps her students fuse their individual voices with the information they find in documents as they take positions and support them. She is confident that her students will use their new skills throughout their lives. “Writing allows students to move beyond the basics of any subject and understand its relevance and significance.”



Our kids have something to say, and writing

# honors



# their voices

and their thinking.

Children saw me carry my journal around with me; when they scribbled, I wrote. And

# when they



*LaWanda Ransom, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, Savannah, GA, Coastal Georgia Writing Project, Pre-K Project Director*

# I wrote.

# wrote,



In a lifetime of work with young children, LaWanda Ransom knew about the importance of modeling behavior. Still, she says, the Writing Project put that principle in a whole new light. Her dedication to writing, she recalls, “really helped young children see that this is something that grownups do, and it is important.” When she first moved from the classroom to administration, she also used writing to connect with students

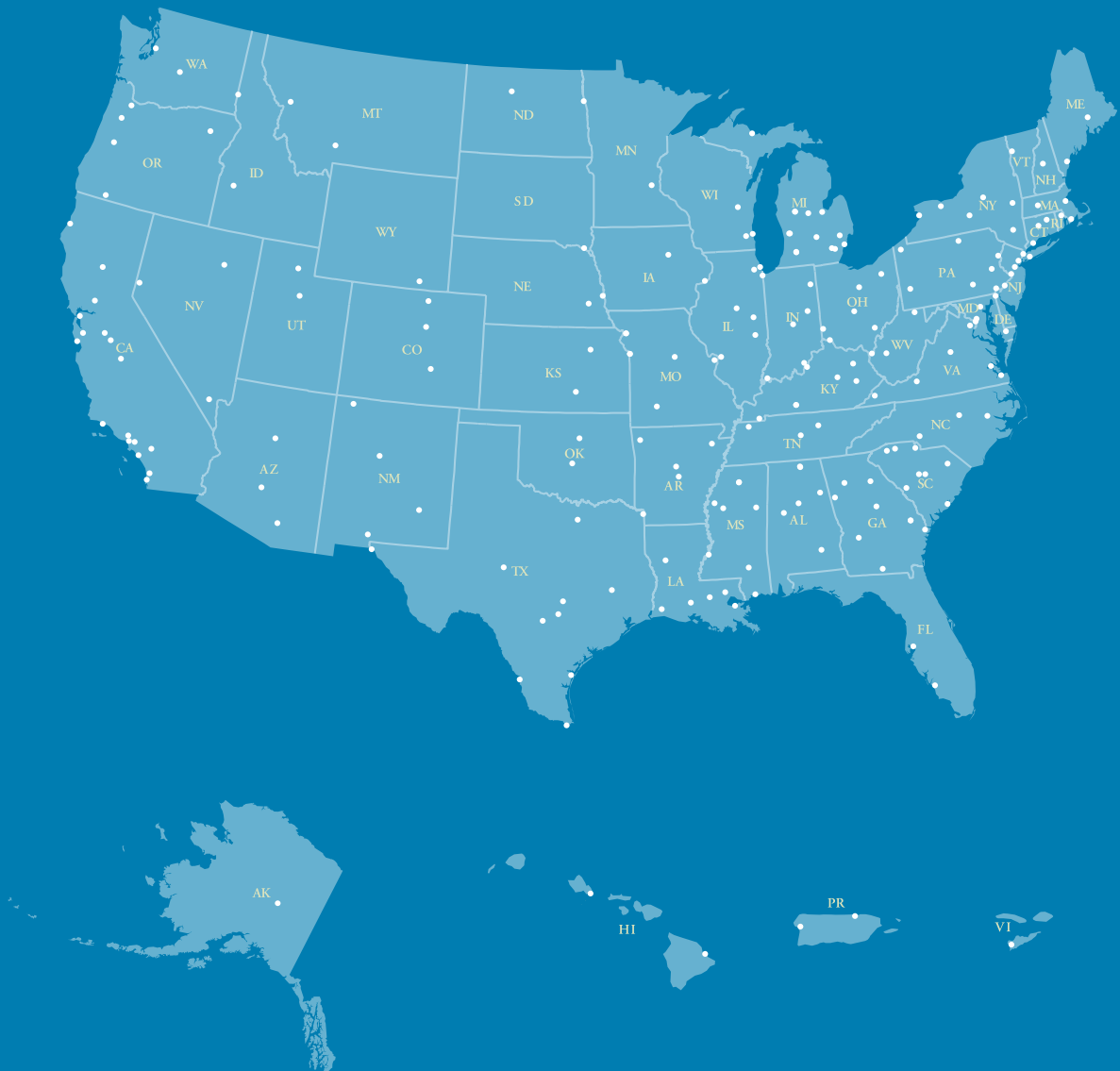
by sharing a roving journal with different classes. Now that she is responsible for the direction of pre-K programs serving some 1,200 students, Ransom’s goal is to make sure “school staff, administrators, the community, everybody, sees there’s a direct relationship between how young students and their parents view school and those students’ success along the way.”

National Writing Project

# SITES

*NWP sites are located on more than 200 university and college campuses.*

*Browse NWP's map at [www.nwp.org](http://www.nwp.org).*





## Alabama

Alabama A&M University Writing Project

Jacksonville State University Writing Project

Longleaf Writing Project  
University of Alabama

Red Mountain Writing Project  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Wiregrass Writing Project  
Troy University

## Alaska

Alaska State Writing Consortium  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

## Arizona

Central Arizona Writing Project  
Arizona State University

Northern Arizona Writing Project  
Northern Arizona University

Southern Arizona Writing Project  
University of Arizona

## Arkansas

Arkansas Delta Writing Project  
Arkansas State University

Great Bear Writing Project  
University of Central Arkansas

Little Rock Writing Project  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Northwest Arkansas Writing Project  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

## California

Area 3 Writing Project  
University of California, Davis

Bay Area Writing Project  
University of California, Berkeley

Cal State Northridge Writing Project  
California State University, Northridge

Central California Writing Project  
University of California, Santa Cruz

Great Valley Writing Project  
California State University, Stanislaus

Inland Area Writing Project  
University of California, Riverside

Los Angeles Writing Project  
at Cal State LA  
California State University, Los Angeles

Northern California Writing Project  
California State University, Chico

Redwood Writing Project  
Humboldt State University

San Diego Area Writing Project  
University of California, San Diego

San Joaquin Valley Writing Project  
California State University, Fresno

San Jose Area Writing Project  
San Jose State University

San Marcos Writing Project  
California State University San Marcos

South Coast Writing Project  
University of California, Santa Barbara

UC Irvine Writing Project  
University of California, Irvine

UC Merced Writing Project  
University of California, Merced

UCLA Writing Project  
University of California, Los Angeles

## Colorado

Colorado State University Writing Project

Denver Writing Project  
University of Colorado Denver

Southern Colorado Writing Project  
Colorado State University-Pueblo

## Connecticut

Central Connecticut Writing Project  
Central Connecticut State University

Connecticut Writing Project - Fairfield  
Fairfield University

Connecticut Writing Project - Storrs  
University of Connecticut

## Delaware

Delaware Writing Project  
University of Delaware

## District of Columbia

District of Columbia Area Writing Project  
Howard University

## Florida

National Writing Project at  
Florida Gulf Coast University

Tampa Bay Area Writing Project  
University of South Florida

## Georgia

Blackwater Writing Project  
Valdosta State University

Central Georgia Writing Project  
Georgia College & State University

Cherokee Rose Writing Project  
University of West Georgia

Coastal Savannah Writing Project  
Armstrong Atlantic State University

Georgia Southern Writing Project  
Georgia Southern University

Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project  
Kennesaw State University

Red Clay Writing Project  
University of Georgia

Southwest Georgia Writing Project  
Georgia Southwestern State University

## Hawai'i

Hawai'i Writing Project  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Lehua Writing Project  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

## Idaho

Boise State University Writing Project

Northwest Inland Writing Project  
University of Idaho

## Illinois

Chicago Area Writing Project  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Eastern Illinois Writing Project  
Eastern Illinois University

Illinois State Writing Project  
Illinois State University

Illinois Writing Project  
National-Louis University

Piasa Bluffs Writing Project  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

University of Illinois Writing Project  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## Indiana

Appleseed Writing Project  
Indiana University–  
Purdue University Fort Wayne

Hoosier Writing Project  
Indiana University–  
Purdue University Indianapolis

Indiana Writing Project  
Ball State University

IUS Writing Project  
Indiana University Southeast

Northwest Indiana Writing Project  
Purdue University Calumet

River Bend Writing Project  
University of Southern Indiana

## Iowa

Eastern Iowa Writing Project  
St. Ambrose University

Iowa Writing Project  
University of Northern Iowa

## Kansas

Flint Hills Writing Project  
Kansas State University

South Central Kansas Writing Project  
Wichita State University

## Kentucky

Eastern Kentucky University Writing Project

Louisville Writing Project  
University of Louisville

Morehead Writing Project  
Morehead State University

Mountain Writing Project  
Hazard Community & Technical College

Northern Kentucky Writing Project  
Northern Kentucky University

Purchase Area Writing Project  
Murray State University

Western Kentucky University Writing Project

## Louisiana

Greater New Orleans Writing Project  
University of New Orleans

Louisiana State University Writing Project

McNeese Writing Project  
McNeese State University

National Writing Project of Acadiana  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Northwestern State University Writing Project

Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project  
Southeastern Louisiana University

## Maine

Southern Maine Writing Project  
University of Southern Maine

University of Maine Writing Project

## Maryland

Eastern Shore Writing Project  
Salisbury University

Maryland Writing Project  
Towson University

University of Maryland Writing Project

## Massachusetts

Boston Writing Project  
University of Massachusetts Boston

Buzzards Bay Writing Project  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Western Massachusetts Writing Project  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

## Michigan

Chippewa River Writing Project  
Central Michigan University

Crossroads Writing Project  
Ferris State University

Eastern Michigan Writing Project  
Eastern Michigan University

Lake Michigan Writing Project  
Grand Valley State University

Meadow Brook Writing Project  
Oakland University

Oakland (MI) Writing Project  
University of Michigan

Red Cedar Writing Project  
Michigan State University

Saginaw Bay Writing Project  
Saginaw Valley State University

Third Coast Writing Project  
Western Michigan University

Upper Peninsula Writing Project  
Northern Michigan University

Wayne State Writing Project  
Wayne State University

## Minnesota

Minnesota Writing Project  
University of Minnesota

## Mississippi

Alcorn Writing Project  
Alcorn State University

Delta Area Writing Project  
Delta State University

Live Oak Writing Project  
University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast

Mississippi Valley State University Writing Project

MSU Writing/Thinking Project  
Mississippi State University

South Mississippi Writing Project  
University of Southern Mississippi

University of Mississippi Writing Project

## Missouri

Gateway Writing Project  
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Greater Kansas City Writing Project  
University of Missouri-Kansas City

Missouri Writing Project  
University of Missouri-Columbia

Ozarks Writing Project  
Missouri State University

Prairie Lands Writing Project  
Missouri Western State University

## Montana

Montana Writing Project  
University of Montana

Yellowstone Writing Project  
Montana State University

## Nebraska

Nebraska Writing Project  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Oxbow Writing Project  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

## Nevada

Great Basin Writing Project  
Great Basin College

Northern Nevada Writing Project  
University of Nevada, Reno

Southern Nevada Writing Project  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

## New Hampshire

Plymouth Writing Project  
Plymouth State University

## New Jersey

Kean University National Writing Project

National Writing Project at Rider University

National Writing Project at Rutgers University

## New Mexico

Bisti Writing Project  
San Juan College

Borderlands Writing Project  
New Mexico State University

High Desert Writing Project  
University of New Mexico

High Plains Writing Project  
Eastern New Mexico University

## New York

Capital District Writing Project  
University at Albany, State University of New York

Genesee Valley Writing Project  
University of Rochester

Hudson Valley Writing Project  
State University of New York at New Paltz

Long Island Writing Project  
Nassau Community College

Mohawk Valley Writing Project  
Utica College

New York City Writing Project  
Lehman College, City University of New York

Seven Valleys Writing Project  
State University of New York at Cortland

Western New York Writing Project  
Canisius College

## North Carolina

Capital Area Writing Project at NCSU  
North Carolina State University

Tar River Writing Project  
East Carolina University



UNC Charlotte Writing Project  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

#### North Dakota

Northern Plains Writing Project  
Minot State University

Red River Valley Writing Project  
University of North Dakota

#### Ohio

Columbus Area Writing Project  
The Ohio State University

Mid Ohio Writing Project  
The Ohio State University at Mansfield

National Writing Project at Kent State  
University

Ohio University Appalachian Writing Project

Ohio Writing Project  
Miami University

#### Oklahoma

Oklahoma State University Writing Project

Oklahoma Writing Project  
University of Oklahoma

#### Oregon

Oregon Writing Project at Eastern Oregon  
University

Oregon Writing Project at Lewis and Clark  
College

Oregon Writing Project at Southern Oregon  
University

Oregon Writing Project at University of Oregon

Oregon Writing Project at Willamette University

#### Pennsylvania

Capital Area Writing Project - PA  
Penn State Harrisburg

Endless Mountains Writing Project  
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

Northeastern Pennsylvania Writing Project  
East Stroudsburg University

Penn State Lehigh Valley Writing Project

PennLake National Writing Project  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project  
West Chester University

Philadelphia Writing Project  
University of Pennsylvania

Western Pennsylvania Writing Project  
University of Pittsburgh

#### Puerto Rico

Borinquen Writing Project  
University of the Sacred Heart

MayaWest Writing Project  
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

#### Rhode Island

Rhode Island Writing Project  
Rhode Island College

#### South Carolina

Aiken Writing Project  
University of South Carolina Aiken

Lowcountry Writing Project  
The Citadel

Midlands Writing Project  
University of South Carolina

Santee-Wateree Writing Project  
University of South Carolina

Spartanburg Writing Project  
University of South Carolina Upstate

Swamp Fox Writing Project  
Francis Marion University

Upstate Writing Project  
Clemson University

Winthrop Writing Project  
Winthrop University

#### South Dakota

Dakota Writing Project  
University of South Dakota

#### Tennessee

Middle Tennessee Writing Project  
Middle Tennessee State University

Upper Cumberland Writing Project  
Tennessee Technological University

West Tennessee Writing Project  
University of Tennessee at Martin

#### Texas

Central Texas Writing Project  
Texas State University

Coastal Bend Writing Project  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

East Texas Writing Project  
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Heart of Texas Writing Project  
University of Texas at Austin

North Star of Texas Writing Project  
University of North Texas

Pearl of the Concho Writing Project  
Angelo State University

Sabal Palms Writing Project  
University of Texas at Brownsville

Sam Houston Writing Project  
Sam Houston State University

San Antonio Writing Project  
University of Texas at San Antonio

South Texas Writing Project  
Texas A&M International University

West Texas Writing Project  
University of Texas at El Paso

#### Utah

Central Utah Writing Project  
Brigham Young University

Wasatch Range Writing Project  
Weber State University

#### Vermont

National Writing Project in Vermont  
University of Vermont

#### Virgin Islands

Virgin Islands Writing Project  
University of the Virgin Islands

#### Virginia

Appalachian Writing Project  
University of Virginia's College at Wise

Blue Ridge Writing Project  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State  
University

Central Virginia Writing Project  
University of Virginia

Eastern Virginia Writing Project  
College of William and Mary

Northern Virginia Writing Project  
George Mason University

Tidewater Writing Project  
Old Dominion University

#### Washington

Central Washington Writing Project  
Central Washington University

Puget Sound Writing Project  
University of Washington

#### West Virginia

Central West Virginia Writing Project  
Marshall University Graduate College

Marshall University Writing Project

National Writing Project at West Virginia  
University

#### Wisconsin

Fox Valley Writing Project  
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Milwaukee Writing Project  
Carroll University

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Writing  
Project

#### Wyoming

Wyoming Writing Project  
University of Wyoming



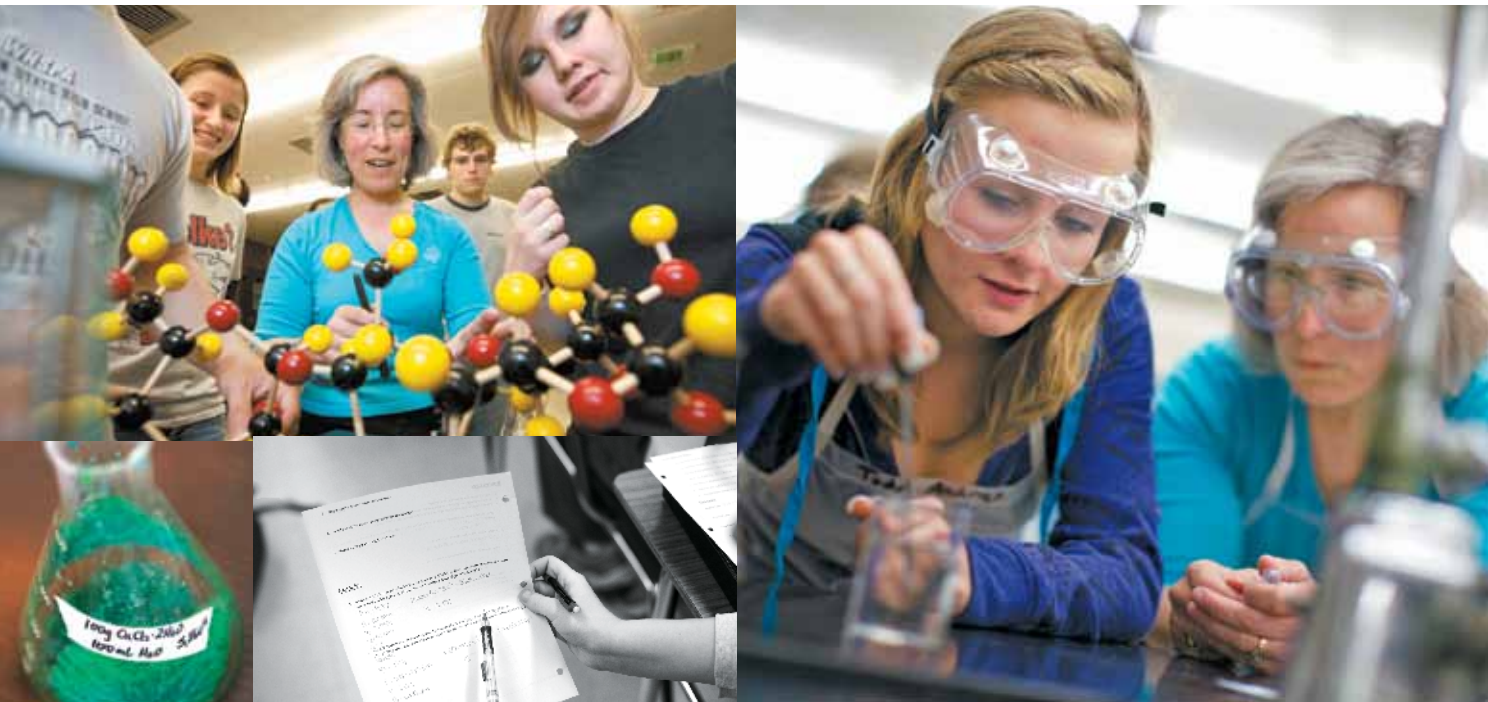
*Kara Pezzi, Appleton East High School, Appleton, WI, Fox Valley Writing Project, Subject: Chemistry*

“I want to make sure my students get the best chemistry education possible,” says Kara Pezzi. Asking her students to write is one way Pezzi meets that high standard. She explains that writing helps students understand their knowledge, and the writing process helps them organize their thoughts. Former students report that their college courses are easier because she taught them to write

lab reports. Back in high school, she had helped those same students revise their drafts several times before they received a final grade. “I want them to see that writing and learning are not one-shot deals,” says Pezzi, who has exemplified this belief throughout her 17-year career. “Everything I do for professional development, I do because I want to be a better teacher.”

Writing gets students to

# higher-level



# thinking

skills.

When my students analyze and write about the

# meaning



*Mel Otero, Pueblo County High School, Pueblo, CO, Southern Colorado Writing Project, Subject: Business*

# of a chart

or a graph, they're developing a skill they can transfer into other content areas.





When Mel Otero's accounting students research a company, he pushes them to go beyond sales figures and inventory by putting those numbers in context and writing a business case. Similarly, his computer students not only create a newsletter template but also write the content on a favorite topic. Otero has read student newsletters on dancing, showing steers, and riding skateboards. "I use writing assignments to convey

the utility of the technology at their disposal," he says. "But I also want them to find their own voices. At their age, many students still go for the parrot effect." Otero credits the Writing Project with helping him maintain his enthusiasm for supporting learners. "The Summer Institute allows you to collaborate with other teachers on ideas you can bring back to any classroom to improve student writing and thinking."



*Clark Frayser, Eisenhower International Elementary School, Tulsa, OK, Oklahoma State University Writing Project, Subject: Art*

Clark Frayser takes his students on a journey into their own creativity, not only through visual arts but also by pushing his students to express themselves through writing and sharing what they create with the community. “The process of writing and expressing yourself is really important,” says Frayser, who has been teaching for more than 30 years. “I infuse writing into their projects because we always try to get to a higher level of

thinking.” His students at multilingual Eisenhower International Elementary School complement their art education with writing, whether it’s crafting successful speeches for the Tulsa city-wide Speech Arts Contest or the Martin Luther King Speech Contest, writing haikus about their paintings, or studying perspective through writing and drawing. “It’s fun to explore different areas where I can use writing in my art classroom.”



Writing helps my students handle very

# complicated



# ideas.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Statement of Activities

for years ended September 30,

	2009			2008		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT						
Federal grant	23,565,681		23,565,681	21,469,237		21,469,237
Other grant revenue & contributions	310,151	313,572	623,723	388,089	751,128	1,139,217
Publications and professional service revenue	63,965		63,965	40,374		40,374
Net investment and other interest income	34,588		34,588	60,853		60,853
Net assets released from restrictions	570,002	( 570,002 )	–	320,800	( 320,800 )	–
<b>Total Revenues and Other Support</b>	<b>\$24,544,387</b>	<b>\$ ( 256,430 )</b>	<b>\$24,287,957</b>	<b>\$22,279,353</b>	<b>\$430,328</b>	<b>\$22,709,681</b>
EXPENSES:						
Program services						
Writing project developments	22,184,279		22,184,279	19,650,992		19,650,992
Supporting services						
Management and general	2,451,417		2,451,417	2,474,327		2,474,327
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,635,696</b>	<b>\$ –</b>	<b>\$24,635,696</b>	<b>\$22,125,319</b>	<b>\$ –</b>	<b>\$22,125,319</b>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	( 91,309 )	( 256,430 )	( 347,739 )	154,034	430,328	584,362
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,991,786	430,328	2,422,114	1,837,752		1,837,752
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,900,477</b>	<b>\$173,898</b>	<b>\$2,074,375</b>	<b>\$1,991,786</b>	<b>\$430,328</b>	<b>\$2,422,114</b>

### Statement of Financial Position

for years ended September 30,

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
	2009	2008		2009	2008
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,211,217	\$952,837	Grants and accounts payable	\$1,374,126	\$1,385,572
Investments, short term	1,060,337	834,986	Accrued expenses	278,862	209,437
Accounts and interest receivable	27,090	11,641			
Grant receivable	1,000,000	1,420,000	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,652,988</b>	<b>\$1,595,009</b>
Pledges receivable, net	99,700	381,128			
Prepaid expenses	108,952	183,722	NET ASSETS		
Furniture and equipment, net	220,067	232,809	Unrestricted	\$1,900,477	\$1,991,786
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,727,363</b>	<b>\$4,017,123</b>	Temporarily restricted	173,898	430,328
			<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,074,375</b>	<b>\$2,422,114</b>
			<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,727,363</b>	<b>\$4,017,123</b>

### FUNDING

Support for the National Writing Project is provided by the U.S. Department of Education, foundations, corporations, universities, and K–12 schools.

NWP federal funding for fiscal year 2008–2009 totals \$23.6 million. Local support for NWP sites and programs totals an additional \$23.1 million.

A complete copy of the organization's financial statements, audited by Armanino McKenna LLP, is available upon request from National Writing Project, 2105 Bancroft Way, #1042, Berkeley, CA 94720-1042.

# reach & impact

The National Writing Project (NWP) is a nationwide network of educators working together to improve the teaching of writing in the nation's schools and in other settings. Founded in 1974 at the University of California, Berkeley, NWP today is a network of more than 200 university-based sites, working in partnership with surrounding school districts to:

**provide** high-quality professional development to teachers to improve writing and learning at all grade levels and across disciplines;

**serve** 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands;

**leverage** the federal investment, dollar for dollar;

**engage** 130,000 educator-participants annually; and through those educators...

**reach** 1.4 million students every year.

**NWP has a positive impact on students.** Sixteen research studies conducted in seven states from 2006 through 2009 consistently show gains in writing performance among students whose teachers participate in NWP programs. Independent national scorings show that NWP students' improvement outpaces that of students in comparison groups (NWP Research Brief, No. 2, 2010).





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National Programs and  
Site Development

Linda Friedrich  
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Operations

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Finance

Dan Tormey  
Information Systems

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SteegeThomson Communications

Photography  
Jason Miczek

## Statement from Inverness Research

Many projects aimed at educational improvement have limited success because they are funded as short-term expenditures for direct services. In contrast, the National Writing Project functions as an infrastructure for improvement, providing direct services and generating educational capital—for example, usable knowledge, professional leadership, institutional partnerships—that accumulates over time, fuels innovation, and can be used for future production of services. Operating at sufficient scale to make an impact across the nation, NWP serves as a model of an educational improvement infrastructure designed for sustainable growth. Effective investments of federal education dollars are those that, like NWP, support immediate services, promote the long-term growth of infrastructure for educational improvement, and achieve national impact.

Mark St. John, Ph.D., President, Inverness Research, Inc.





National Writing Project