

Central WV Writing Project

Winter 2016 Newsletter

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CWVWP Represented at NWP Annual Meeting

By Dr. Barbara O'Byrne

National Writing Project Presentation Writing for All

Dr. Barbara O'Byrne and Dr. Jane Bogan led a round table inquiry discussion at the National Writing Project Annual Meeting in November on the theme of *Writing for All: Widening Writing Instruction to Include Students with Disabilities*. The discussion started with the premise that all students deserve quality writing instruction and opened up a lively discussion about the approaches, scaffolds, and accommodations needed to effectively deliver writing instruction to learners with or at risk for learning disabilities in inclusion and self-contained settings. Input from those at the table established a consensus that high numbers of special needs students are present in all grades, 6 through 12. Further, inclusion in general education classrooms all too frequently results in an illusion of inclusion. The regular education teacher prepares gen ed

students for complex writing and literacy tasks while the special education teacher shepherds students with IEP's in tasks that emphasize mechanics and formulaic writing. Drawing upon classroom observation data, Barbara and Jane demonstrated communication patterns confirming that special needs students speak more and are spoken to less frequently in the classroom. There was agreement that more inquiry and research are needed to identify the ways in which special education and writing and literacy teachers can collaborate and develop effective, efficient co-teaching practices that meet students at the point of need and offer a more inclusive, robust curriculum for all students.

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Planning for CWVWP Spring 2016 Continues

By Stephanie Burdette

Planning is well underway for the upcoming Spring 2016 CWVWP Workshop which is scheduled to take place on April 9 at Marshall University Graduate College in South Charleston, WV. The focus of the workshop will be the integration of reading and writing in the classroom. Seasoned educators will serve as presenters for topics ranging from technology integration to collaborative efforts

between regular/special education teachers to enhance writing instruction. The workshop will be open to local educators on a first come first serve basis with registration for applications tentatively set for late January/February.



UPCOMING SUMMER CAMP

Please monitor the CWVWP website for updates on the 2016 spring workshop :

<http://www.marshall.edu/cwvwp/>

CWVWP Teacher-Leaders Participate in Training at Marshall University COEPD

By Staff

CWVWP Teacher-Leaders participated in a training session aimed at improving the quality of graduate level instruction. The session took part on November 11, 2015 at Marshall University Graduate College in South Charleston, West Virginia. In addition to the professional development sessions, Teacher-Leaders met to discuss upcoming CWVWP activities among which included potential grant proposals, a spring 2016 one-day workshop, and the reboot of a professional development initiative between the CWVWP and select elementary schools in Kanawha County. Members of the CWVWP in attendance included: Dr. Barbara O'Byrne, Stephanie Burdette, Dr. Cynthia Smith, Susan Garrison, Emily Patterson, Rebecca Ryder, Carrie Blankenship, and Anne Johnson.

Writing Boot Camp

Several teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing were afforded the opportunity to do a Master's in Special Education. However, as Dr. Lori Howard explained, "these students had no experience with the kinds of academic writing needed to complete the research project required of graduates in this program. Dr. Howard, impressed by what she saw at the CWVWP spring writing conference in 2015, asked if the CWVWP could offer assistance to these students. Writing Boot Camp was the result. Barbara O'Byrne let students through a series of interactive activities that activated and built knowledge about the structure and content of an effective review of the literature, a key component of the research paper. Said one participant, "The workshop greatly helped guide me. I feel more grounded now – ready to get started writing. I originally felt overwhelmed about this assignment but now I feel organized and confident." The CWVWP has plans to continue and extend Writing Boot Camps for educators in 2016-17. If interested in leading a workshop or having one offered at your school, let us know.

CWVWP Outreach Campaign During WV Reading Conference in November By Staff

Stephanie Burdette and Barbie Norvell recently traveled to The Greenbrier to serve as liaisons for the CWVWP during the 2016 WV State Reading Conference. During their time in White Sulphur Springs, they met with conference participants to discuss upcoming CWVWP initiatives such as the Spring 2016 Workshop. Additionally, they provided interested educators with brochures which detailed professional development offerings made available through the writing project. There was considerable interest in the workshop with over 25 teachers providing their contact information for the upcoming registration.



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CWVWP PD OFFERINGS:

Contact Barbara O'Byrne

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CWVWP Partners with OIEP Schools to Develop Writing Workshops

By Dr. Barbara O'Byrne

Each year the CWVWP partners with WV schools to offer the West Virginia Young Writers Contest. In 2015, Dr. Christi Chambers, Executive Director Office of Institutional Education Programs (OIEP) contacted Barbara O'Byrne and asked if there were some way to involve OIEP students in the Young Writers Contest. The answer was, of course, yes! A process was initiated to enable students in these state programs to submit entries to local counties. From this initial contact, a series of conversations ensued about the needs of these students and their teachers for writing workshops that focused on different forms of writing. There are many logistics to resolve but the project is moving forward. Several teacher-leaders have expressed interest in this collaboration and we are developing plans to use the expertise of our site to support writers in these OIEP schools. This February, there will be an initial a workshop series offered at Pressley

Ridge at White Oak Village. More details to follow.

LOOKING AHEAD

Young Writer's Day 2016 will take place on May 13, 2016 at the University of Charleston

Writing in the Elementary School

By Carrie Blankenship

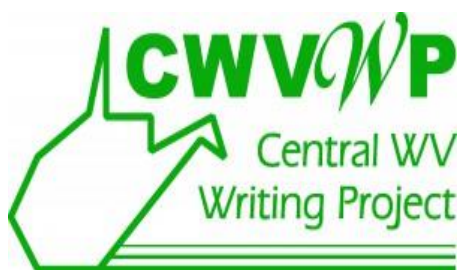
The CWVWP and Marshall University have sponsored a yearlong writing project to provide professional development to Kanawha County elementary teachers. The first semester of the class focused on teachers mainly from three elementary schools and was facilitated by Dr. Jeradi Cohen and Carrie Blankenship. The second semester will consist mostly

of teachers with less than five years of teaching experience. The facilitators are Rebecca Ryder and Carrie Blankenship.

The spring semester will focus on using mentor texts to sample many forms of writing using authors' work. Mentor Texts: Teaching Writing Through Children's Literature K-6 and Nonfiction Mentor Texts, both written by Lynne R. Dorfman and Rose Capelli, will be provided to the teachers.

The teachers will leave with a toolkit for writing instruction. Interactive notebooks and technology will be incorporated.

About Us



Central West Virginia Writing Project (CWVWP) is a site of the [National Writing Project \(NWP\)](#), the largest on-going staff development initiative for teachers. Faculties across the disciplines – from kindergarten through the university level – collaborate through various initiatives. The WV site follows the NWP teachers-teaching-teachers model. The primary goal of this website is to offer information about the programs offered by CWVWP and to connect teachers with information to help improve their practice.

There has been a West Virginia National Writing Project site supported by Marshall University, South Charleston since 1978. Since 2002, Central West Virginia Writing Project has delivered professional development in teaching writing across the

curriculum to hundreds of K-adult teachers through partnerships with county school districts and individual schools. CWVWP is dedicated to improving writing in grades K-16 through partnerships with schools and county school districts. We believe in the power of classroom-tested knowledge. Successful practicing teachers are designated as Teacher Consultants (TCs) after completing the Invitational Summer Institute. Supported by CWVWP, TCs provide classroom-tested professional development that is grounded in theory, practice, and published research.

Mission Statement

As an affiliate of the National Writing Project (NWP), the Central West Virginia Writing Project (CWVWP) endorses the NWP mission and assumptions and has adapted this mission to reflect our locality.

The mission of the CWVWP is to improve the teaching of writing and improve learning in the schools of central West Virginia. Through its

professional development model, CWVWP recognizes the primary importance of teacher knowledge, expertise, and leadership which impact students, schools, and extends into the community. CWVWP believes that access to high quality educational experiences that incorporate 21st century skills is a basic right of all learners and a cornerstone of equity. Through its network of teachers, the CWVWP seeks to promote exemplary instruction of writing in every classroom in central WV. CWVWP values diversity—our own as well as that of our students, their families and their communities. We recognize that our lives and practices are enriched when those with whom we interact represent diversities of race, gender, class, ethnicity, and language.

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