

Rocky Mountain Writing Project
2010 SUMMER INSTITUTE OF WRITING
University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado
June 14 – July 09, 2010

The Rocky Mountain Writing Project

The Rocky Mountain Writing Project is an affiliate of the National Writing Project, a collaborative university-school professional development resource community for K-16 teachers committed to leadership in writing instruction. The Invitational Summer Institute (ISI), the epicenter for training and networking, focuses on building a community of teacher-writers who demonstrate a willingness to tackle the challenges of being writers and teachers of writing. Ongoing continuity programs provide professional development opportunities to Fellows and extend RMWP's influence by training professionals in writing instruction in K-16 classrooms in every discipline throughout Northeastern Colorado.

The RMWP is supported by the University of Northern Colorado School English Language and Literature, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Graduate College. Support for the RMWP also comes from the National Writing Project. For a more complete overview, visit our website at: <http://www.unco.edu/hss/rmwp/>.

The Invitational Summer Institute

Educators who have a proven track record of effective methods in teaching are identified and invited to attend our Invitational Summer Institute, which is based on the original NWP model of teachers-teaching-teachers. The institute is comprised of 4 weeks of intensive study. Participating teachers will have opportunities to explore their own best practices and instructional "burning questions"; study writing theory and research; experience the writing process by writing themselves and sharing their writing in both small and large groups; and prepare to teach other teachers how to effectively use writing in their classrooms.

The Invitational Summer Institute will meet an average of five days a week, with time off for July 4th, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the University of Northern Colorado Centerra Campus in Loveland.

Inquiry-Based Teaching Demonstrations

During the Invitational Summer Institute each participant will present a Teaching Demonstration of a best or an effective practice for engaging students in a reading or writing activity. Inquiry-based demonstrations are intended to push teachers to explore their instructional practices with the intent of discovering some greater truth or insight about their best practices. Likewise, inquiries might explore why a best practice serves to motivate students or why a particular approach successfully engages students in the lesson. Inquiries may also explore ‘what if’ scenarios surrounding a best practice. For example, “What would happen with literacy achievement gaps between boys and girls if I taught this lesson to homogenous groups instead of the whole class?” While each Teaching Demonstration is unique, they all require that teachers reflect deeply on a best classroom practice, look at the evidence provided in their students’ work and incorporate outside research to support further inquiry into their instructional strategies. Teacher-consultants who have successfully completed the RMWP will serve as coaches to guide Summer Institute participants in the preparation of their demonstrations.

2010 RMWP Fellows will be expected to present a modified version of their Teaching Demonstration at the RMWP Conference, held at the University of Northern Colorado in spring of 2011.

After the Institute

Follow-up meetings are held throughout each year to bring RMWP Fellows together for continued professional development and to plan ongoing programs and activities. After completing the Invitational Summer Institute, 2010 RMWP Fellows will be invited to join the RMWP Leadership Team to assist with planning ongoing events, workshops, inservices, and conferences sponsored by our site. We currently hold an annual Leadership Retreat in the fall, a New Teacher Institute, as well as many Professional Study Teams facilitated by our RMWP Teaching Consultants. All past and current RMWP Fellows are encouraged to participate.

Graduate Credit

Those participating in the Invitational Summer Institute will enroll in six hours of graduate credit (ENG 593). The National Writing Project and the Rocky Mountain Writing Project will off-set the cost, determined annually by the status of the federal grant monies, of six hours of graduate credit, books, and supplies.

Applications

Completed applications will be accepted at the Writing Project office until **November 1, 2009 or until a diverse group of 20 applicants have been accepted**. Selected applicants can expect to be interviewed and learn of their acceptance to the program no later than **mid-March 2010**. Applicants are encouraged to submit completed applications as early as possible to ensure consideration for the 2010 Institute.

Criteria for Selection

Attendance at the Summer Institute is by invitation and is limited to twenty participants. Those selected will demonstrate:

- Successful classroom teaching
- Commitment to using writing in the classroom
- Desire and ability to teach other teachers
- Openness to new ideas and approaches to teaching
- Willingness to write

The National Writing Project

Begun in 1974 as the Bay Area Writing Project at the University of California at Berkeley, the National Writing Project has grown into an international network of 200 projects. Because writing is fundamental to learning in all subjects, the National Writing Project taps into what is known about writing and the teaching of writing from all sources: key research findings, important books and articles, and, most importantly, the classroom practices of effective teachers. If you would like to know more about this national program, please visit their website at: www.nwp.org.

Goals of the National Writing Project

All National Writing Project sites focus on the four major goals of the National Writing Project:

1. To improve student writing and learning in kindergarten through university classrooms;
2. To extend the uses of writing in all disciplines;
3. To provide schools, colleges, and universities with an effective professional development model;
4. To identify, celebrate, and enhance the professional role of successful classroom teachers.

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APPLICATION FORM

Cover Sheet

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone () _____

Home E-mail _____

School Name & Address _____

Position Held at School _____

School Telephone () _____ E-mail _____

I received this application from: _____

Please provide the following information on separate pages as needed. Attach both pages of this cover sheet on top of the application packet.

1. **Teaching Experience and Education.** Give name and location of schools, subjects and grade levels taught, and dates, beginning with the most recent position. Provide dates of university/college attendance and degrees earned. List professional affiliations, recognition, honors and achievement, publications, conferences you have attended or participated in, and presentations you have made. En lieu of this you may attach a resume.

2. **Recommendations.** Please arrange for two letters of recommendation from colleagues and/or administrators who can comment on your strengths as a teacher. The letters may be sent with the application packet or under separate cover to the RMWP.
3. **Writing.** In a cover letter include:
 - Why you would like to participate in the 2010 Invitational Summer Institute;
 - What you feel you can contribute to the Rocky Mountain Writing Project;
 - What you hope to gain from becoming a part of the Rocky Mountain Writing Project;
 - What interests you have in writing issues, writing instruction, and/or school-based writing practices.
4. **Assurance of commitment.** If you are selected to participate in the 2010 Invitational Summer Institute, do you agree to:
 - _____Attend two daylong orientation meetings at the University of Northern Colorado (Loveland campus) during the spring prior to the Summer Institute (dates TBA);
 - _____Attend and participate in all class sessions during the Invitational Summer Institute;
 - _____ Make a presentation at the RMWP Conference held at the University of Northern Colorado.

Signature _____

Date _____

Completed applications and letters of recommendation are due postmarked by **November 1, 2009 or until a diverse group of 20 applicants have been accepted.**

Send to: Teresa Sellmer, University of Northern Colorado, Ross Hall 1284, Campus Box 109, Greeley, Colorado 80639-0050.

Questions about the application? Email Teresa Sellmer at Teresa.Sellmer@unco.edu