Imagine spending four weeks, from nine in the morning until three in the afternoon, of your summer vacation with a
group of K-university educators, from many different content areas, who you don’t even know. You spend those four
weeks reading about writing instruction, writing and sharing your writing, presenting a model demonstration lesson,
researching an inquiry topic, and presenting your findings. You explore different aspects of educational leadership
such as coaching colleagues, designing curriculum, publishing professionally, and attending and presenting at
conferences. You graduate from the Invitational Summer Institute as a Teacher Leader of the Cal State Northridge
Writing Project and join company with Teacher Leaders from nearly 200 affiliated National Writing Project (NWP)
sites nationwide (www.nwp.org).

Established in 1974 at UC Berkeley, NWP provides a model of professional learning that is both unique and
transformative. It is unique in its respect for teacher professionalism. The Invitational Summer Institute is not a class;
the directors facilitate the experience, but the focus is on teachers teaching teachers. Curricular foci often emerge
from participant interests and needs. Currently, the site is supporting a renewed interest in social justice and issues of
local advocacy. The experience is transformative in that participants leave with a renewed sense of energy, a clearer
understanding of effective writing instruction, of writing’s role in improving reading, and of writing’s importance for
the nation’s wellbeing as noted by the National Commission on Writing in America’s Schools and Colleges (2004).

In 2009, the Cal State Northridge Writing Project (www.csun.edu/writingproject) became an affiliate of NWP and
one of the California Writing Project’s 16 sites (www.californiawritingproject.org). Directed by Kathy Rowlands,
Jenn Wolfe, and Pamela Holguin-Brown (a LAUSD K-1 teacher), our mission is to increase student achievement by
improving the teaching of writing. Recent funding cuts at the federal level hamper efforts to provide extensive
research on the impact of Writing Project teachers on student achievement. However, Lieberman and Wood’s (2003)
book-length case study traced how teachers’ experiences in NWP institutes translated into effective classroom
practices, comparing one year gains in writing scores made by students in NWP teachers’ classrooms to gains made
in non-NWP classrooms. Consistently, NWP teachers’ students showed greater writing gains in a year than the
students of comparison teachers.

Following the model of sister projects nationwide, the Cal State Northridge Writing Project had a direct impact on
the learning of teachers from seven counties during 2016-2017. We worked with teachers in five different schools,
held five Open Institutes focused on writing instruction, the ELD standards, and the ELA-ELD Framework, and
provided professional learning focused on the CSU’s Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) for all
middle school teachers from Temecula Unified School District. Our 9th annual Write to Literacy Conference is
November 4, 2017. By providing area teachers access to effective, reasonably priced professional learning, we help
them develop effective writing instruction to take back to their students.

Dr. Kathleen Rowlands, a professor of Secondary Education, has a Ph.D. in composition and rhetoric and has been
affiliated with the Writing Project since 1980. Dr. Jenn Wolfe, an assistant professor of Secondary Education, has an
Ed.D. in teacher education in multicultural societies and has been affiliated with the Writing Project since 2012.
The Cal State Northridge Writing Project provides the following services to teachers and schools.

See www.csun.edu/writingproject for specifics, follow us @NorthridgeWP, or like NorthridgeWP on Facebook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering</th>
<th>Times and Dates</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Invitational Summer Institute</td>
<td>June and July</td>
<td>15 participants, K-college earn a stipend for completing the 100 hour program and becoming Teacher Leaders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Write Stuff: Young Writer’s Camps for Students Entering Grades 1-12</td>
<td>Three weeks in the summer. Individual sessions for targeted student groups are offered throughout the year.</td>
<td>Various offerings for different age groups and different interests. Cost includes all materials, a juice and cookie snack, and the student publication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISAW (Improving Student Academic Writing) Workshops for Teachers in Grades 6-12</td>
<td>A series of informational sessions.</td>
<td>Registration includes a continental breakfast and all materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Institutes</td>
<td>Summer and throughout the year as scheduled. TBD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Groups, Study Groups, and Writing Groups.</td>
<td>As requested by participants.</td>
<td>Two to six sessions as determined by participants. Prices vary depending upon length and cost of materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development for Schools or Districts*</td>
<td>Developed to suit the needs of individual schools and districts.</td>
<td>As an affiliate of the California and National Writing Projects, we are authorized by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and the California State Board of Education to provide professional development.* Prices vary based on services provided.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*The Cal State Northridge Writing Project's professional development programs are designed to suit the needs and interests of individual schools and districts. We can provide hands-on, interactive workshops during or after the school day, as well as on-site coaching, and assistance with curriculum and planning. Our teacher consultants work collaboratively with school and district personnel to ensure that the professional development offered addresses the teachers’ concerns and contributes to the long-range plans of the school or district. For detailed information about our professional development workshops and consultations, as well as information about potential funding assistance, contact Kathleen Rowlands: krowlands@csun.edu or 818-677-2556.

The 9th Annual Write to Literacy Conference
November 4, 2017
For additional information, visit
https://www.csun.edu/writingproject/Content/Write_to_Literacy/Conference_2017.html

REFERENCES
