2008 annual report

think write connect learn think write connect learn think

NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

I am the bridge from what my students do today to who they become in the future. The National Writing Project is my bridge to becoming a better teacher for my students.

MICHELLE OHANIAN / MOUNTAIN VIEW ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFAX, VA, NORTHERN VIRGINIA WRITING PROJECT

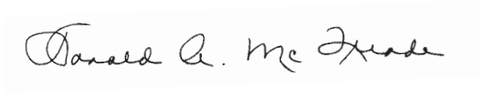
GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN TEACHERS USED COMPUTERS MERELY FOR BASIC DRILLS. CONDUCTING RESEARCH, EVALUATING SOURCES OF INFORMATION, DISPLAYING DATA, SOLVING PROBLEMS, WORKING COLLABORATIVELY ON WRITTEN AND ORAL PRESENTA TIONS THESE ARE THE NEW "BASIC SKILLS" OF THE 21ST CENTURY. NEVER HAVE SUCH STRENUOUS DEMANDS BEEN PLACED ON PRACTICING TEACHERS TO MASTER NEW WAYS TO TEACH NEW SKILLS. Inverness Research

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

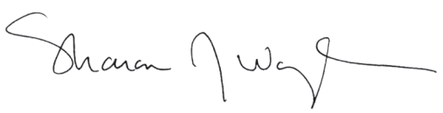
Writing in its many forms is the signature means of communication in the 21st century. This simple truth heightens the urgency to help all of our nation's students become strong writers and effective communicators.

The National Writing Project (NWP) pursues this goal by focusing the knowledge, expertise, and leadership of our nation's educators on sustained efforts to improve writing and learning for all learners. The NWP's network of more than 200 university-based sites provides high-quality, locally designed professional development for teachers across disciplines and at all levels. Each site conducts summer institutes, school-year programs, and research in order to develop the leadership and innovative approaches that are vital to teaching and learning in a digital age.

We invite you to learn more about the NWP through the teachers featured in this annual report. These inventive and skilled educators represent the growing number of NWP leaders with expertise in both subject matter and technology and an understanding of how each augments the other to inspire learning in the classroom. These teachers use their knowledge to strengthen student achievement and to help their teaching colleagues meet the increasing demands, and emerging opportunities, of digital literacy.



DONALD MCQUADE
Chair of the Board



SHARON J WASHINGTON
Executive Director

RENEE WEBSTER / PERRY ELEMENTARY, PERRY, MI
CO-DIRECTOR, RED CEDAR WRITING PROJECT

“DIGITAL RECORDERS” capture the smart thinking of first-graders.

Renee Webster, 34-year veteran teacher, wants to preserve that smart thinking. “We can replay it and show our young students in what ways they were so smart.” As a result, all children become more intentional about language, and special-needs students can participate more fully. In Renee’s class, students record their book talks and their best ideas. This year they have created a documentary for graduating kindergartners. Based on their experiences and interviews with other first-graders, their documentary delivers essential tips for making the leap to first grade.

I LIKE USING THE DIGITAL VOICE RECORDER BECAUSE I CAN LISTEN TO THE PODCAST ON THE INTERNET. IT EXPLODES YOUR AUDIENCE. AND IT RECORDS EVERYTHING.

RYAN, FIRST GRADE STUDENT

ROBERT RIVERA-AMEZOLA / FRANCES E. WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PHILADELPHIA, PA
PHILADELPHIA WRITING PROJECT

“PODCASTS

give English language learners a non-threatening way to practice English.” Robert Rivera-Amezola, an experienced elementary school teacher, says that podcasts motivate his English language learners to extend their new language skills as they tackle complex subjects. Working together, Robert and his fourth-graders conduct research, write scripts, and record audio broadcasts for publication on the Internet. “We just posted our fourth podcast about water, land, and contamination,” Robert notes, “and about what we can do every day to conserve water.” In the process, students were able to hear themselves speak and to share their accomplishments with their parents.

I LIKE PODCASTING BECAUSE IT CAN GO ON THE INTERNET AND I FEEL LIKE I'M A STAR. PEOPLE CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM IT. I BECOME EVEN BRAVER . . .

ELAINE, FOURTH GRADE STUDENT

National Writing Project

SITES

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

Browse NWP's map at *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

Sun Belt Writing Project
Auburn University

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

Rocky Mountain Writing Project
University of Northern Colorado

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

Florida State University Writing Project

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

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

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

National Writing Project of Acadiana
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Northwestern State University Writing Project

Southeastern Louisiana Writing Project
Southeastern Louisiana University

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

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 Rutgers University

Trenton Area Writing Project at Rider University

NEW MEXICO

Bisti Writing Project
San Juan College

Borderlands Writing Project
New Mexico State University

Four Corners Writing Project
University of New Mexico-Gallup

High Desert Writing Project
University of New Mexico

High Plains Writing Project
Eastern New Mexico University

NEW YORK

Capital District Writing Project
State University of New York at Albany

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

Southcentral Pennsylvania Writing Project
Indiana 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

Coastal Area Writing Project
Coastal Carolina University

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

Greater Houston Area Writing Project
University of Houston-Clear Lake

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

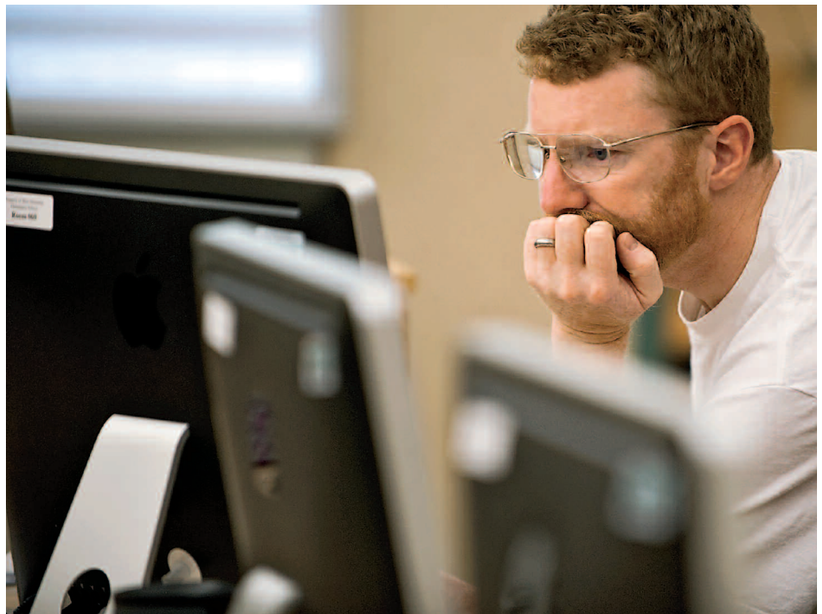
YUMI MATSUI / LIFE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL, OAKLAND, CA
BAY AREA WRITING PROJECT

“DIGITAL STORIES

give voice to students who don’t always participate in class.” Yumi Matsui, high school humanities teacher, also observes that “individual talents can shine.” Yumi offers her students a modern-day connection to history along with new digital literacy skills. Over a semester, eleventh-graders study immigration by interviewing family or community members. Working with a partner, they compose a digital story that will debut on exhibition night with their families as the audience. In the process, students work through multiple drafts and revisions, adding selected audio and video. As eleventh-grader Israel explains, “We put all the effort and time into the story because we are making it about someone who has sacrificed.”

WHAT I WROTE ABOUT MY GRANDPA WAS THE BEST STUFF I EVER WROTE. IT REALLY MEANT A LOT TO ME. WHEN I READ IT BACK TO MY GRANDPA, HE SAID IT WAS PERFECT.

ADRIANA, ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENT



BUD HUNT, INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIST / ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT, LONGMONT, CO
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY WRITING PROJECT

“TECHNOLOGY

needs to support learning, not higher elec-

tricity bills.” Bud Hunt, a former high school language arts teacher, bridges two worlds. “I am the teacher in the technology meetings,” he explains, “and the technologist in the teacher meetings.” His work in 48 district schools helps teachers integrate technology, particularly digital writing, into the curriculum. Bud also communicates regularly with educators around the world via his website “Bud the Teacher,” a space packed with blogs and podcasts on teaching and learning. His back-to-school message to teachers drew a flood of responses: “Be an expert when you need to be,” Bud advised. “Be a learner always. . . . Relationships and mentoring cannot be outsourced or Googled.”

THIS CHANCE TO GAIN DIGITAL FLUENCY GIVES US THE FUNDAMENTAL, EVER-CHANGING SKILLS WE NEED TO PASS ALONG TO OUR STUDENTS.

DONNA SALEMINK, TEACHER-PARTICIPANT

FELICIA GEORGE / LEHMAN COLLEGE, CUNY, NEW YORK CITY
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, NEW YORK CITY WRITING PROJECT

“TEACHERS

use technology in their daily lives, but they

haven't always figured out how to use it to help students write, revise, and learn.” Felicia George, a former Head Start teacher, has devoted her career to helping adults develop state-of-the-art literacy instruction for children in after-school programs, foster care, and other settings. Today she works with teacher-leaders in the New York City Writing Project to strengthen their skills with new digital tools so they, in turn, can support their teaching colleagues in the schools. Felicia also chairs NWP's Technology Liaison Network, a group of leaders from all sites whose individual and collective knowledge about uses of technology affects classrooms across the nation.

I AM BEGINNING TO CLOSE THE GREAT GAP BETWEEN MY UNDERSTANDING OF HOW VITAL INTERNET TECHNOLOGY IS IN TODAY'S WORLD, AND WHAT I CAN ACTUALLY DO WITH THAT TECHNOLOGY.

SUSANNAH THOMPSON, TEACHER-PARTICIPANT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statements of Activities *for years ended September 30,*	2008 Unrestricted	2008 Temporarily Restricted	2008 Total	2007 Unrestricted	2007 Temporarily Restricted	2007 Total
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT						
Federal grant	$21,469,237		$21,469,237	$21,532,500		$21,532,500
Other grant revenue & contributions	388,089	751,128	1,139,217	267,123		267,123
Publications and professional service revenue	40,374		40,374	63,093		63,093
Net investment and other interest income	60,853		60,853	65,783		65,783
Net assets released from restrictions	320,800	(320,800)				
Total Revenues and Other Support	$22,279,353	$430,328	$22,709,681	$21,928,499	$ –	$21,928,499
EXPENSES						
Program services						
Writing project developments	19,650,992		19,650,992	19,438,094		19,438,094
Supporting services						
Management and general	2,474,327		2,474,327	2,397,612		2,397,612
Total Expenses	$22,125,319	$ –	$22,125,319	$21,835,706	$ –	$21,835,706
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	154,034	430,328	584,362	92,793		92,793
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,837,752		1,837,752	1,744,959		1,744,959
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	$1,991,786	$430,328	$2,422,114	$1,837,752	$ –	$1,837,752

Statements of Financial Position
for years ended September 30,

ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash and cash equivalents	$952,837	$632,818
Investments, short term	834,986	705,414
Accounts and interest receivable	11,641	30,552
Grant receivable	1,420,000	1,245,000
Pledges receivable, net	381,128	0
Prepaid expenses	183,722	247,181
Furniture and equipment, net	232,809	266,410
Total Assets	$4,017,123	$3,127,375

LIABILITIES	2008	2007
Grants and accounts payable	$1,385,572	$1,079,179
Accrued expenses	209,437	210,444
Total Liabilities	$1,595,009	$1,289,623
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	$1,991,786	$1,837,752
Temporarily restricted	430,328	0
Total Net Assets	$2,422,114	$1,837,752
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$4,017,123	$3,127,375

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 2007-2008 totals $21.5 million. Local support for NWP sites and programs totals an additional $23.8 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.

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San Marcos, TX

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Executive Director
National Writing Project
Berkeley, CA

Vanessa Whang
Director of Programs
California Council for the Humanities
San Francisco, CA

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Deputy Director

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National Programs and Site Development

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Research and Evaluation

Marilyn Lovelace-Grant
Operations

Michel Mathis
Grants and Contracts

Mary Ann Smith
Government Relations and Public Affairs

Patrick Sweeney
Finance

Dan Tormey
Information Systems

STATEMENT FROM INVERNESS RESEARCH

NWP built on its existing national infrastructure of more than 200 local sites to ramp up its capacity to help teachers learn to better use technology for teaching and learning. The NWP model for leadership development in technology—where leading teachers are supported in developing technology expertise in their own classrooms—enabled NWP sites to expand their cadres of teacher-consultants who could share their knowledge with other teachers through local professional development programs. The work of NWP sites participating in the Tech Initiative included creating new programs that were specific to teachers in their local areas, as well as building broader partnerships that enhanced their states' capacity to teach teachers.

Keeping the Promise of the 21st Century: Bringing Classroom Teaching into the Digital Age, Policy Brief, Spring 2009, Inverness Research Associates

CREDITS

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