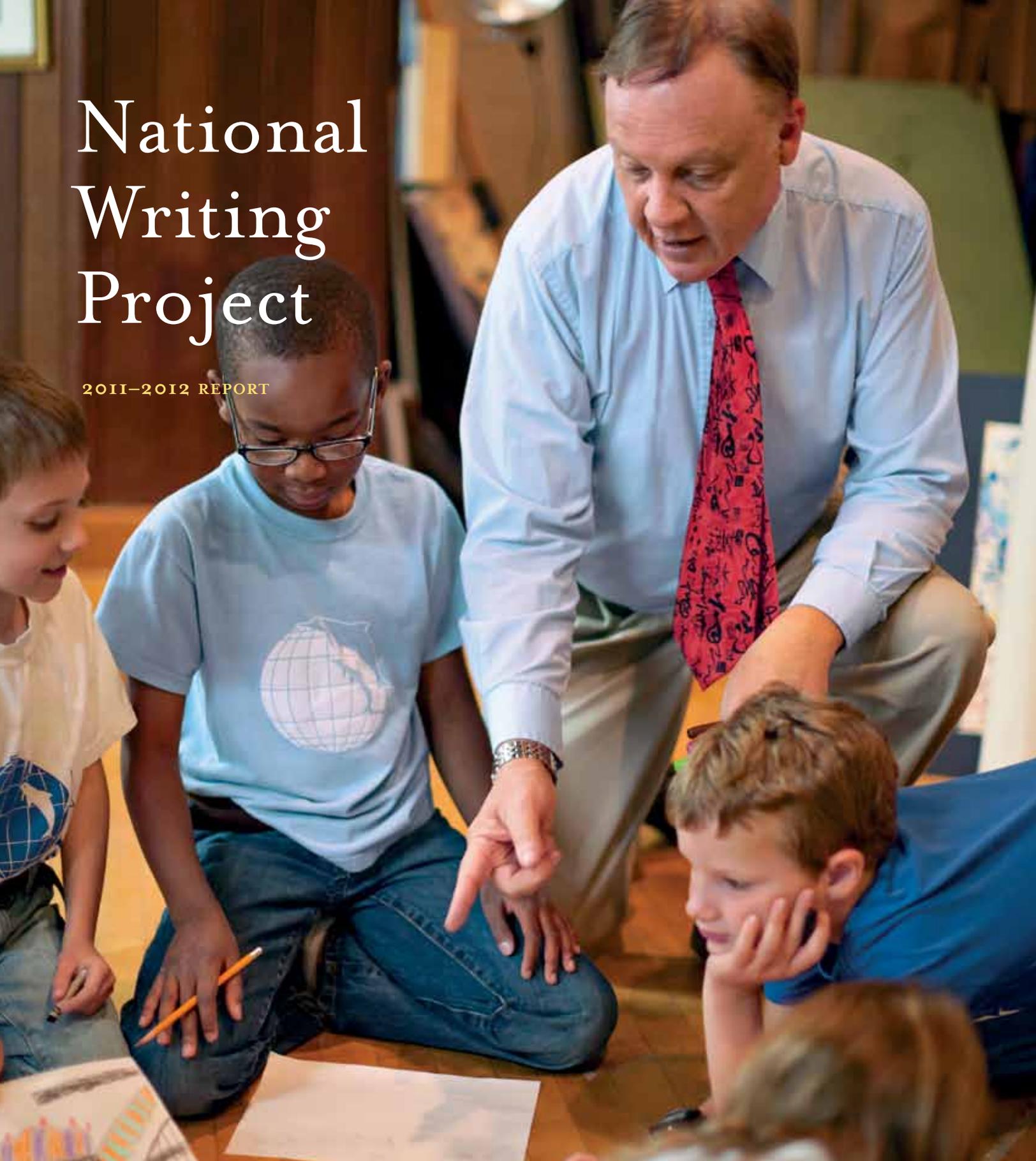


National Writing Project

2011-2012 REPORT



The National Writing Project is the only national professional development program that focuses on the teaching of writing.

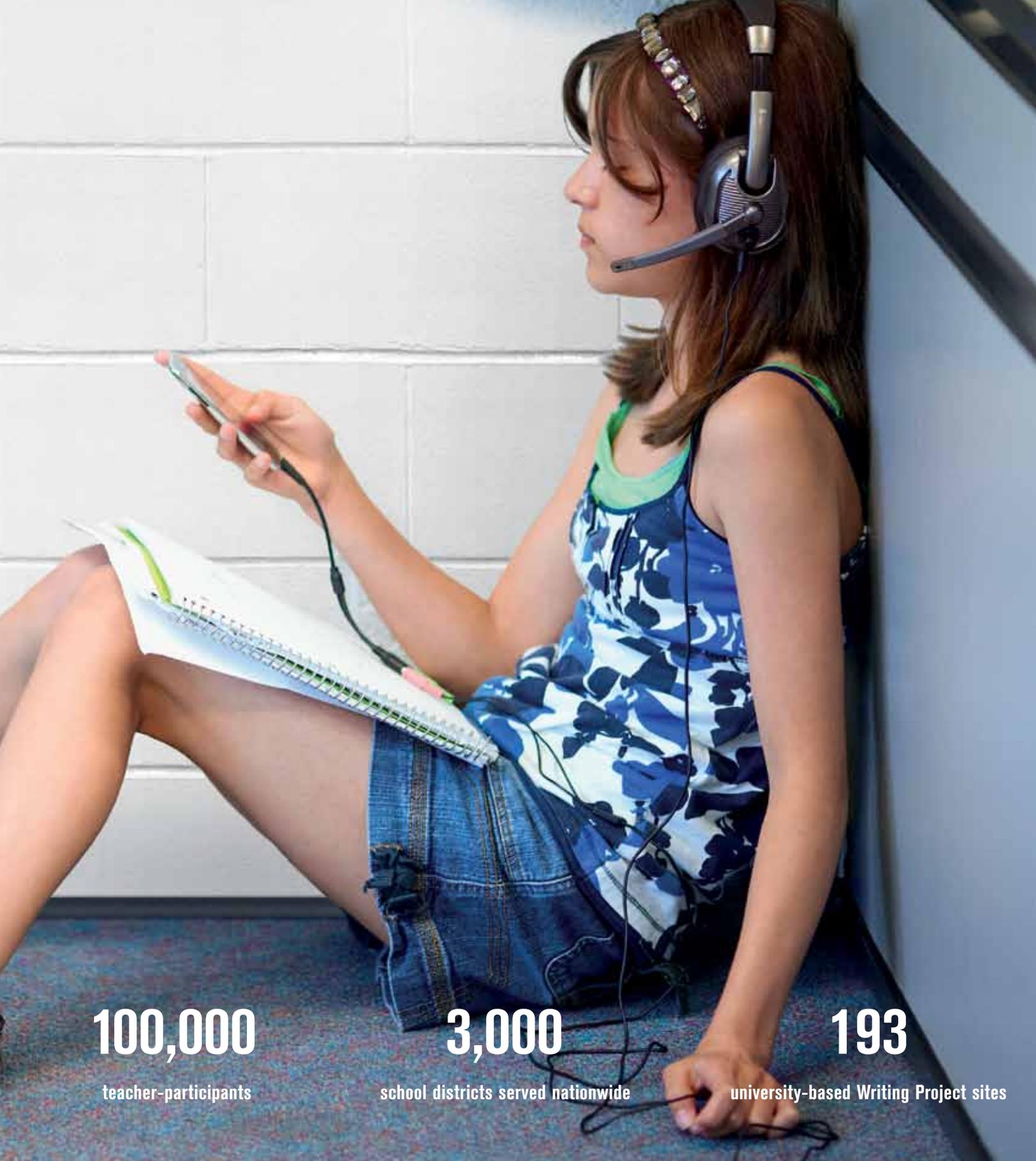
1.4

million students reached annually

3,000

new teacher-leaders each year





100,000

teacher-participants

3,000

school districts served nationwide

193

university-based Writing Project sites

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.

> FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Today, young people carry the world in their pockets. Through an ever-expanding array of digital devices, they have unprecedented access to knowledge, learning opportunities, and audiences. The ones who flourish in this new world will be those who know how to write.

The National Writing Project strives to erase the divide that threatens to separate young people who write well from the ones who don't. For 38 years, we have helped reluctant writers become good writers, and good writers become better ones. And we do it on a national scale.

The Writing Project works to improve writing instruction for all students, no matter what their skills or literacy level when they begin. We stand as a resource for every school, district, and state that will strive to meet new college- and career-ready standards requiring strong writing across subjects. We share the insistence that all young people must have the support to attain the skills they need for success.

In an era of competitive funding, NWP's ability to hold its own speaks to the strength of collective work across our nearly 200 university-based sites. The U.S. Department of Education recognized the National Writing Project with two major grants, while our partnership with the Association of Science-Technology Centers earned us funding to integrate science and literacy from the National Science Foundation. These opportunities add to our development in digital literacy and composing, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and our work with the Literacy Design Collaborative sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In this annual report you will hear from committed and passionate educators about what they do best: help students achieve, develop strong teacher-leaders, and build communities of teachers.

We thank you for taking the time to learn more about the National Writing Project, for partnering with us to strengthen student achievement and literacy, and for believing in the power of writing.

Warmest regards,

Judith Warren Little
Chair of the Board

Sharon J. Washington
Executive Director

We help students achieve.

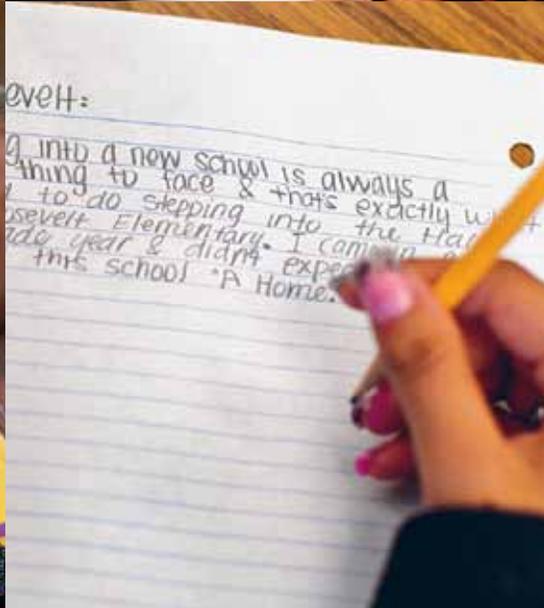
EVERY DAY, IN EVERY STATE, in every kind of community, Writing Project teachers are making a difference in the lives of students—early childhood through university. By teaching students not only how to write well but how to learn through writing in all disciplines, these educators are increasing their students' chances of academic and career success. Through writing, students learn to convey ideas and solve problems. They learn to understand and engage with the world. Whether they're creating essays and poems, term papers and lab reports, or blogs and podcasts, students are developing the skills to communicate in today's digital age and compete in the 21st century.



12 million

K-12 students
reached since 1974

Kenya Hernandez writes about how things are in society, and how things should be. The eighth-grader at Roosevelt Elementary School in Stockton, CA, uses words to express her feelings and ideas. "Writing, to me, has been something that has allowed me to connect to people," says Kenya. "Writing is just **A PART OF ME.**"



3/4

of Americans think schools
should put more emphasis on
teaching students to write well.



“Writing is a powerful tool that helps my students see they have a voice.”

Adversity. Anxiety. Gang violence. BRANDY DE ALBA writes such words on the board for her eighth-graders to explore in their journals each day. De Alba knows students must be engaged before they can begin learning. “Writing is a tool for healing, and becomes a bridge to academics and beyond.” Teaching in Stockton, California, where she grew up, De Alba credits her former softball coach and teacher for inspiring her to attend college.

Thanks to the Great Valley Writing Project, “I learned how to connect my students’ lives with writing for success in school,” says De Alba. Writing helped students like Kenya Hernandez, who started the school year less engaged, grow more confident in their communication skills. Kenya testified at a briefing in Washington, D.C., on her experience as an English language learner. “She became an advocate for her community through her writing,” says De Alba.

16

research studies conducted in 7 states showed gains in writing performance among students whose teachers participate in NWP programs.

fact:

We develop strong teacher-leaders across the nation.

TEACHERS PLAY A VITAL ROLE in leading sustained efforts to improve learning in our schools. NWP teacher-leaders study and share effective practices that enhance student writing and learning, work collaboratively with other educators, design resources, and take on new roles in effecting positive change.



ANNUAL REACH

100,000 educators

1.4 million students

3,000 school districts



As a teacher-leader with the Boston Writing Project and the NWP Urban Sites Network Leadership Team, Chris Tsang notes, “I have significant opportunities to share practices and receive mentorship.” Tsang, who teaches eighth-grade English Language Arts at the Harbor School in Boston, MA, adds, “The Writing Project philosophy is the foundation for **ALL MY TEACHING.**”



Each year

3,000

teacher-leaders attend NWP
invitational institutes.





“Teacher-leaders are change agents.”

TONYA PERRY *was already an Alabama Teacher of the Year* when she attended the Writing Project’s Summer Institute in 2004. A seasoned educator, she was pleased with how much she grew professionally. After the Institute, she connected with her fellow participants and formed a lasting community. “I found it fascinating that NWP’s model changed our thinking about ourselves from participants in a workshop to a family of professionals who really wanted to impact writing and literacy instruction across content areas.”

Today, as site director of the Red Mountain Writing Project in Birmingham, Alabama, she nurtures a new generation of leaders every day. These teacher-leaders are sharing effective practices with their fellow educators, who, in turn, impact their students’ academic success. “I believe in the power of the teacher,” she says.

98%

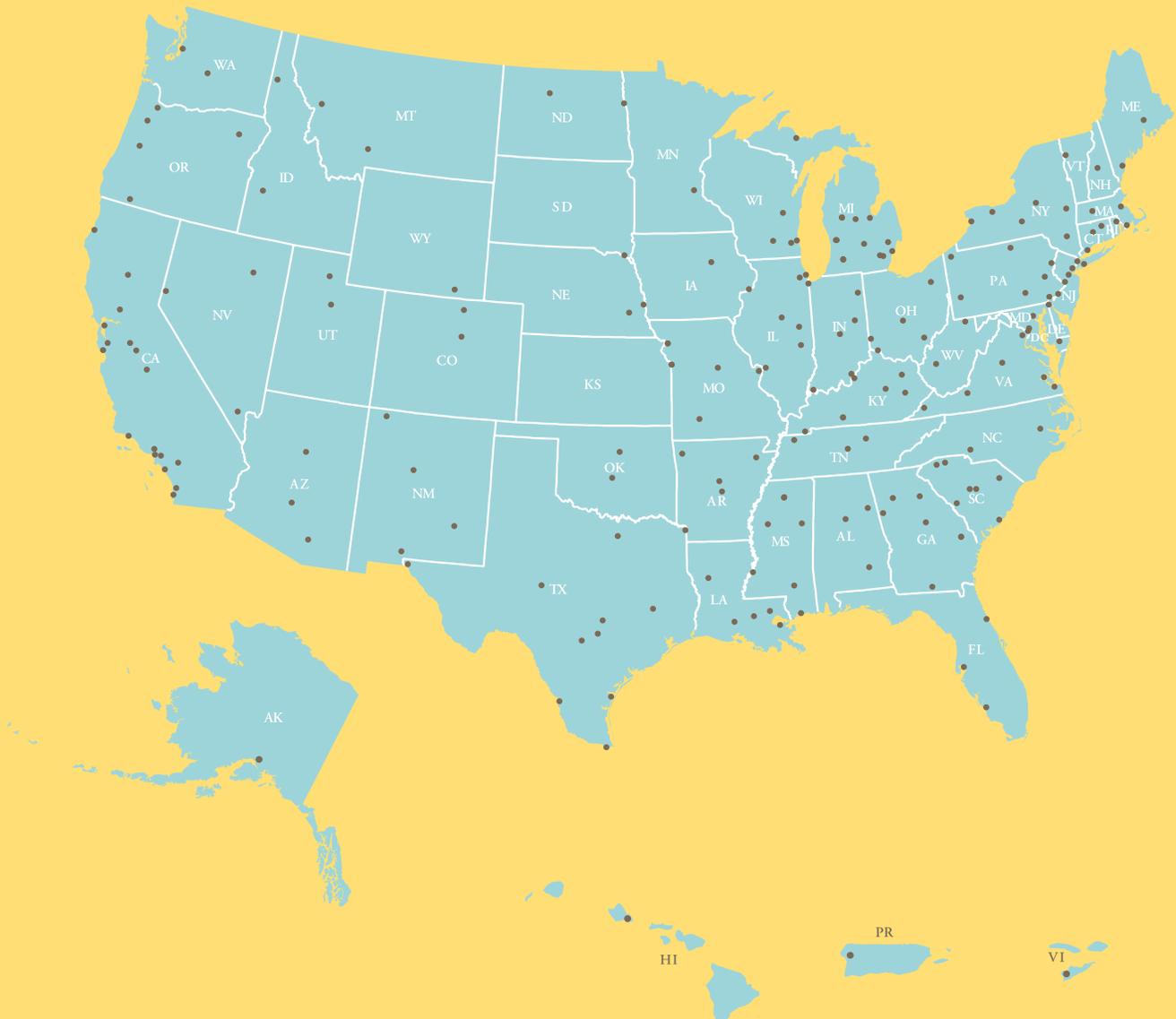
of Writing Project teacher-leaders stay in education throughout their careers.

NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

sites

NWP sites are located on nearly 200 university and college campuses.

Browse NWP's map at www.nwp.org.



- > **ALABAMA**
 - Jacksonville State University Writing Project
 - Red Mountain Writing Project University of Alabama at Birmingham
 - Wiregrass Writing Project Troy University
 - > **ALASKA**
 - Alaska State Writing Consortium University of Alaska Anchorage
 - > **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
 - > **CONNECTICUT**
 - Central Connecticut Writing Project Central Connecticut State University
 - Connecticut Writing Project-Fairfield Fairfield University
 - Connecticut Writing Project-Storrs Storrs University of Connecticut
- > **DELAWARE**
 - Delaware Writing Project University of Delaware
 - > **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
 - District of Columbia Area Writing Project Howard University
 - > **FLORIDA**
 - Daytona Beach National Writing Project Bethune-Cookman University
 - 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
 - > **HAWAII**
 - Hawai'i Writing Project University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
 - > **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**
 - Iowa Writing Project University of Northern Iowa
 - Quad City Area Writing Project St. Ambrose 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**

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 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

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**

National Writing Project in New
Hampshire
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**

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

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
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**

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

> **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
The University of Texas at
El Paso

> **UTAH**

Central Utah Writing Project
Brigham Young University

Wasatch Range Writing Project
Weber State University

> **VERMONT**

Green Mountain Writing Project
at UVM
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

National Writing Project at West
Virginia University

> **WISCONSIN**

Fox Valley Writing Project
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Greater Madison Writing Project
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Milwaukee Writing Project
Carroll University

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Writing Project

> **WYOMING**

Wyoming Writing Project
University of Wyoming

We build communities of teachers who share their innovations and expertise.

ONLINE AND FACE TO FACE, Writing Project teachers build knowledge—together. Cadres of educators across subjects, geographic boundaries, and grade levels coalesce to demonstrate and discuss practice.

Teachers gather to study new standards and current literature on academic writing through NWP Connect, a platform for online communities of practice. They develop and share resources on Digital Is, NWP's online community for digital teaching and learning. Writing Project teachers understand the value of critical thinking and collaboration with their colleagues.

70,000

NWP teacher-leaders have taught 1.2 million additional educators since 1974.



100,000

teacher-participants annually



Tapping into NWP's national network, Jennifer Woollven and Alina Adonyi, teachers at a tech-focused high school in Austin, TX, use Writing Project practices to “teach skills that students will need in their futures, such as collaboration, problem solving, and effective communication,” Woollven says. Student projects include digital stories that combine **WRITING, SOUND, and ANIMATION.**





“There is this sense that you’re part of something much larger than you ever imagined.”

KEVIN HODGSON, or “*dogtrax*,” as he is known to his thousand-plus Twitter followers, leverages the power of Writing Project networks to help his students achieve.

“I’m interested in all the digital tools out there, in the possibilities for me as a writer and for my students as learners,” says Hodgson, the educational technology guru, sixth-grade teacher, and technology liaison with the Western Massachusetts Writing Project. “And I don’t want to go it alone.”

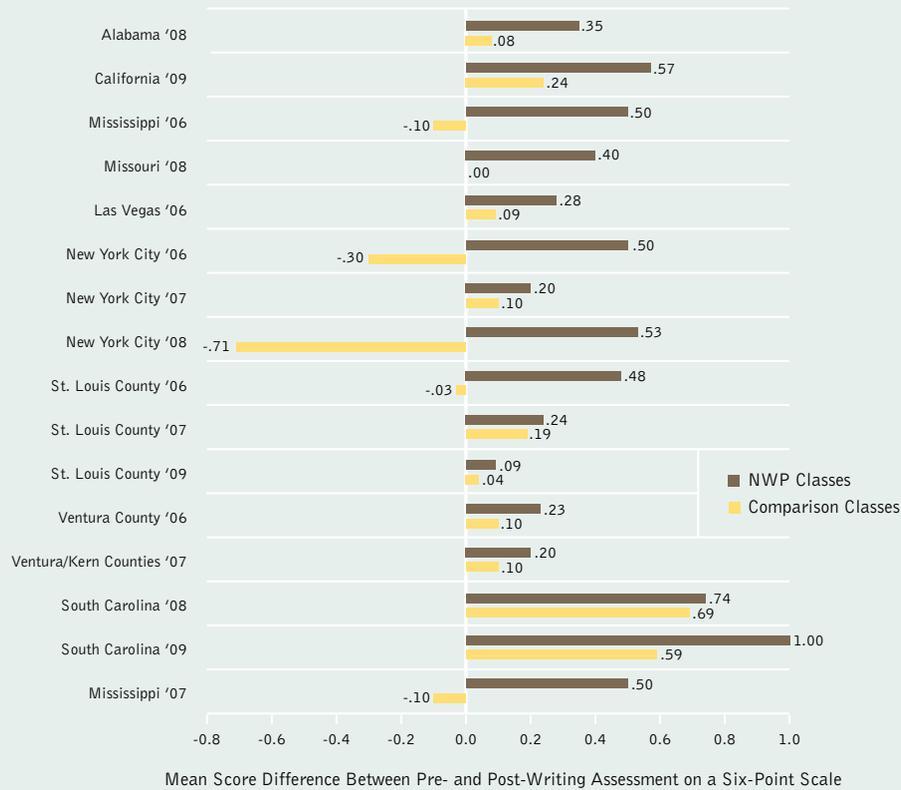
Projects he’s created with other Writing Project teachers include an ABC book of 26 digital stories and the iAnthology, supported by an NWP mini-grant to help teachers share writings and feedback. Says Hodgson, “The online networks connect like-minded people who are willing to put their toes in the water and give things a try.”

50,000

teachers participate in NWP’s digital learning programs annually.

Research studies consistently demonstrate gains in writing performance among students whose teachers participate in NWP programs.

The 16 studies included 141 schools, 7 states, 409 teachers, and 5,408 students.



This graphic illustrates the amount of change in writing performance exhibited by program and comparison students in each of the 16 studies, measured holistically. In each case, program students' writing demonstrated growth, while comparison students' writing often showed little or no growth.

Reference: National Writing Project. 2010. *Research Brief, No. 2, "Writing Project Professional Development Continues to Yield Gains in Student Writing Achievement."*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Activities *for years ended September 30*

| | 2011 | | | 2010 | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Total | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Total |
| REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT | | | | | | |
| Federal grant | \$19,859,647 | | \$19,859,647 | \$24,291,000 | | \$24,291,000 |
| Other grant revenue and contributions | 412,137 | 2,079,393 | 2,491,530 | 255,684 | 1,424,490 | 1,680,174 |
| Publications and professional service revenue | 55,496 | | 55,496 | 34,438 | | 34,438 |
| Net investment and other interest income | 7,539 | | 7,539 | 12,538 | | 12,538 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | 1,175,313 | (1,175,313) | – | 394,057 | (394,057) | – |
| Total Revenues and Other Support | \$21,510,132 | \$904,080 | \$22,414,212 | \$24,987,717 | \$1,030,433 | \$26,018,150 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | |
| Program services | | | | | | |
| Writing Project developments | 18,643,086 | | 18,643,086 | 22,379,300 | | 22,379,300 |
| Supporting services | | | | | | |
| Management and general | 2,558,171 | | 2,558,171 | 2,694,711 | | 2,694,711 |
| Fundraising | 93,213 | | 93,213 | – | | – |
| Total Expenses | \$21,294,470 | \$ – | \$21,294,470 | \$25,074,011 | \$ – | \$25,074,011 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 215,662 | 904,080 | 1,119,742 | (86,294) | 1,030,433 | 944,139 |
| NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR | 1,814,183 | 1,204,331 | 3,018,514 | 1,900,477 | 173,898 | 2,074,375 |
| NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR | \$2,029,845 | \$2,108,411 | \$4,138,256 | \$1,814,183 | \$1,204,331 | \$3,018,514 |

Statement of Financial Position *for years ended September 30*

| ASSETS | | | LIABILITIES | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2011 | 2010 | | 2011 | 2010 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$2,191,908 | \$1,735,381 | Grants and accounts payable | \$439,326 | \$791,204 |
| Investments, short term | 682,704 | 687,042 | Accrued expenses | 190,933 | 307,149 |
| Accounts and interest receivable | 18,155 | 10,424 | | | |
| Grants receivable | 499,647 | 800,000 | Total Liabilities | \$630,259 | \$1,098,353 |
| Pledges receivable, net | 1,011,183 | 500,000 | | | |
| Prepaid expenses | 166,855 | 134,445 | NET ASSETS | | |
| Furniture and equipment, net | 198,063 | 249,575 | Unrestricted | \$2,029,845 | \$1,814,183 |
| Total Assets | \$4,768,515 | \$4,116,867 | Temporarily restricted | 2,108,411 | 1,204,331 |
| | | | Total Net Assets | \$4,138,256 | \$3,018,514 |
| | | | Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$4,768,515 | \$4,116,867 |
| 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 2010–2011 totals \$19.9 million. Local support for NWP sites and programs totals an additional \$23.2 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.

INVESTING IN THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

Support for the National Writing Project is provided by the U.S. Department of Education, universities, and K–12 schools. In addition, we are grateful for the support of the following foundations, corporations, partners, and individuals.

> FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Robert Bowne Foundation
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
The Isabel Allende Foundation
The John D. and Catherine T.
MacArthur Foundation
The National Science Foundation
The New York Community Trust
The Samuels Foundation

> CORPORATE SUPPORT

Cengage Learning
Corwin Press, Inc.
GoingOn Networks
IBM
Korn/Ferry International
Margolis Edelstein
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw
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College Board
FableVision
National Institute on Out-of-
School Time
Reading Is Fundamental

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Cindy O'Donnell-Allen

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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, and 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.

Mark St. John, Ph.D., President, Inverness Research, Inc. Inverness Research, Inc., a research and evaluation group, has been independently evaluating the National Writing Project since 1994.

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