

“The National Writing Project (NWP): Leveraging a National Improvement Infrastructure for Professional Development to Improve Writing Instruction for *All* Students” addresses Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Absolute Priority 2 and Competitive Preferences 1 and 2.

NWP will provide high-quality professional development for K-12 teachers in the teaching of writing to help students meet rigorous academic standards through its national network of 197 university-based sites working in partnership with local schools and districts in all 50 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The program will:

(1) Increase the number of K-12 teacher-leaders prepared to improve the teaching of writing by supporting the development of 3,000 locally based expert K-12 teacher-leaders with an initial intensive leadership program in the teaching of writing (120 hours) by fall 2012. These teacher-leaders will also contribute to the work of local Writing Project sites in 2012-13 and beyond to provide high-quality professional development programs in the teaching of writing;

(2) Increase sustained professional development services in the teaching of writing, focused on helping students meet challenging standards in writing for college-and career-readiness, for K-12 teachers in an additional 100 schools and small districts serving concentrations of high-need students through providing at least 30 hours of professional development per school during 2012-13. Expected outcomes are: (a) a broadly shared understanding and implementation of curriculum and instruction in writing aligned to challenging standards such as the Common Core State Standards for ELA; (b) improved teacher practice in the teaching of writing; and (c) improved student writing achievement in informational and argumentative writing;

(3) Develop and pilot 20 new online professional development modules to assist teachers and schools in strengthening curricula and practice related to challenging standards for college-and-career readiness to improve the teaching of writing. These new learning modules will be accessed by teachers more broadly through NWP’s open-access online community of practice, NWP Connect. NWP will add these modules as additional open educational resources (OERs) to the extensive repository of resources focused on the teaching of writing at www.nwp.org and Digital Is (<http://digitalis.nwp.org/>), its cutting edge collection of OERs focused on the use of digital tools.

Potential contributions include: (1) Developing new knowledge and practices for improving the teaching of writing; (2) Expanding online learning opportunities for teachers including professional development in teaching multi-modal writing; and (3) Providing research-based evidence concerning effective professional development strategies to improve the teaching of writing focused on rigorous academic standards for all students.

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