

4-2-2014

Boston Writing Project

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Recommended Citation

Mitchell, Glenn and Golden, Peter, "Boston Writing Project" (2014). *Office of Community Partnerships Posters*. Paper 191.
http://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters/191

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Boston Writing Project

College of Education and Human Development
Glenn Mitchell, Director and Peter Golden, Co-Director

Summary/Abstract

The Boston Writing Project focuses on the core mission of improving the teaching of writing and improving the use of writing across the disciplines by offering high-quality professional development programs for educators, at all grade levels, K–16 and across the curriculum.

The BWP shares a national program model that includes:

- developing a leadership cadre of local teachers who have participated in invitational summer institutes in the teaching of writing
- delivering customized in service programs for local schools and institution
- providing continuing education and research opportunities for teachers.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the BWP is to work with schools and teachers to improve the teaching and learning of writing in Massachusetts classrooms, K-College.

To further this goal, the BWP has conducted annual summer institutes and in-service programs and sponsors a graduate certificate program in the teaching of writing for a wide variety of urban and suburban schools and teachers.

Approaches and Methods

In all BWP activities, teachers write and examine their writing processes as well as those of their colleagues and students. The teaching of writing is approached in a cross-disciplinary context which focuses on current research, theory, and exemplary practice. The BWP fosters a model of “teachers teaching teachers.”

Over the years the program has experienced a series of organic changes due to shifting funding and partner interest. Shared values, collaboration, and passion for providing exemplary professional development experiences remained constant.

The BWP began as collaboration between UMass Boston and the Boston Public Schools and over the years has become well known and respected. More recently, BWP Director Glenn Mitchell worked with DESE to create summer workshops offered to MA schools in preparation for the switch to the Common Core of State Standards.

Impacts

Since 1978 hundreds of local teachers have participated in the Boston Writing Project institutes, workshops and writing groups. They have become teacher leaders and, in turn, have conducted workshops and facilitated writing and study groups in their own and each others’ schools.

In the words of one participant,

“I wish I had this training earlier in my teaching career, as I know it has informed and will improve my practice as a teacher of writing.”

Conclusion/Next Steps

Apply Now!

Invitational Summer Institute - 2014

July 7-24 | 9:00a.m. – 3:30p.m.

Monday – Thursday

For application and further information please visit the BWP website.

References and Resources

The National Writing Project

www.nwp.org

The Boston Writing Project

www.bostonwritingproject.org

Partnership Information

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/>

The Adult Literacy Resource Institute at UMass Boston

<http://sabes.org/>

Boston Public Schools

<http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>