

The Genesee Valley Writing Project

The Genesee Valley Writing Project (GVWP) is a collaborative school-university partnership dedicated to improving the quality of student writing and learning in PK-16 schools across the Genesee Valley region through teacher-centered professional development. The GVWP is an established site of the National Writing Project, a federally funded professional development program, and is one of more than 200 university-based project sites across the country.

The GVWP's goals, as part of the National Writing Project, are to improve student writing and learning in PK-16 classrooms; extend uses of writing in all disciplines; provide area schools, colleges, and universities with an effective professional development model; and identify, celebrate, and enhance the professional role of successful classroom teachers.

Using a teachers-teaching-teachers model, the GVWP allows participating teachers to tap into what is known about writing and teaching of writing from all sources—key research findings, important books and articles, and most importantly, the classroom practices of effective and successful teachers.

The GVWP is housed within the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education, where its director, Professor Joanne Larson, is the Michael W. Scandling Professor of Education and chair of the teaching and curriculum program.

In its mission to improving the quality of student writing and learning, the GVWP sponsors an array of programs including an annual invitational Summer Institute, school-based inservice programs, and professional development continuity programs.

The National Writing Project

The National Writing Project (NWP) is a network of local sites, including the Genesee Valley site, located in universities across 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Sites sponsor invitational Summer Institutes and other professional development activities for teachers of writing, across all disciplines and grade levels, throughout the year. Sites also design programs that address local issues and particular needs of schools, teachers, and students in their communities. The National Writing Project adds new sites each year with the goal of placing a writing project site within reach of every teacher in America to help all students become successful writers and learners. Today, the NWP has grown into a network of more than 200 project sites reaching more than 100,000 educators every year.

The Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester

The Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development is a professional school within a top-ranked research university. Warner offers graduate programs to prepare teachers, counselors, administrators, scholars, researchers, and consultants to enter the nation's most challenging arena and become a powerful force for change.

The Warner School offers certificate, master's, and doctoral programs in:

- Counseling
- Educational Policy
- Higher Education
- Human Development
- School Leadership
- Teaching and Curriculum

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Genesee Valley Writing Project

Modified Invitational Summer Institute

July 7 — 25, 2014

www.warner.rochester.edu/researchprojects/projects/gvwp



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About the Summer Institute

This year, the GVWP will offer a three-week Modified Invitational Summer Institute in order to provide space for current Teacher Consultants and new fellows to deepen their writing, research, and teaching. Teachers participating in this three-week Institute will have the opportunity to build their understanding of Common Core Standards modules, do research writing and publishing, and to participate in a collaborative writing project. Furthermore, we will have the opportunity to participate in Warner's Horizons program to try out our Common Core ideas.

The 2014 Summer Institute will be held on the University of Rochester's River Campus in Warner's new building, LeChase Hall, from July 7 through 25, four days each week, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fellows must attend one mandatory Pre-Institute meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 7 to be held in LeChase Hall.

Benefits of a Fellowship

Three graduate credit hours at the Warner School of Education (participants will be required to first use any employee tuition benefits or other applicable scholarships and tuition waivers, with the remainder to be covered by a Warner School tuition waiver - offer not applicable to currently matriculated Warner students); the chance to collaborate with outstanding colleagues; membership in a local and national network of Writing Project Fellows; and approximately 100 hours of professional development may be used toward your district's PD hours requirement.

"I finally wrote a story that I have been writing, but only in my head, for many years. Fueled by my fellow writers' enthusiasm, I went through countless drafts. When I finally saw it in print, in our own collection, it felt so good. I want my students to feel the sense of reward that I got after bringing a piece to a publishable level."

Mary Heveron Smith, GVWP Fellow, high school teacher, and ELA specialist at Buckman Heights Elementary School in Greece

Eligible Participants

All former GVWP Teacher Consultants and area teachers are eligible for this modified institute. Teachers at all grade levels and geographic areas are welcome.

Criteria for Selection

Attendance at the Modified Summer Institute is limited by invitation. Those selected will demonstrate:

- Successful classroom teaching
- Commitment to using writing in the classroom
- Openness to new ideas and approaches to teaching
- Willingness to write

How to Apply

Applications for the 2014 Modified Summer Institute should be sent to the following address by March 14, 2014:

Joanne Larson, Director, Genesee Valley Writing Project
University of Rochester
Warner School of Education
478 LeChase Hall RC 270425
Rochester, New York 14627

Applications can be downloaded from the GVWP Web site at www.warner.rochester.edu/researchprojects/projects/gvwp. Application packets should include the following: (1) application cover page; (2) one to two page personal statement based on the prompts provided in the application. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The final notification of the Summer Institute Fellows will be issued by April 18. Fellows must attend one mandatory Pre-Institute meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2014 on the University of Rochester River Campus in LeChase Hall. For more information about the 2014 Summer Institute, please call Joanne Larson at (585) 275-0900 or e-mail her at jlaron@warner.rochester.edu.

"Taking part in the Summer Institute was the best thing that I've done for myself in quite some time. Surrounded by intelligent and passionate educators, I learned, I laughed, and I put myself out there. As a result, I grew as a teacher, a colleague, and as a person."

Leslie Laurie-Nicoll, GVWP Fellow and fourth grade teacher at Le Roy Central School

GVWP Follow-up Programs

The community of teacher leaders formed during the Summer Institute becomes the foundation for the continuing work of the GVWP. Writing Project Fellows are encouraged to stay involved with our local and national Writing Project network and are supported in developing community outreach programs, school-based inservice workshops, collaborative partnerships, and teacher study groups to support the goals of the National Writing Project in the Greater Rochester community.

GVWP Leadership Team

Joanne Larson, Director
Professor of Teaching and Curriculum,
Warner School of Education

Maryrita Maier, Co-Director
First grade teacher and Warner doctoral student

Jennifer Smith LaPointe, Co-Director
College writing teacher and Warner doctoral student

To Learn More About ...

- The Genesee Valley Writing Project, including information about previous Summer Institutes, visit warner.rochester.edu/gvwp, or call (585) 275-0900
- The National Writing Project, visit www.nwp.org, or call (510) 642-0693