



Thank you for your interest in Community of Writers' professional development program. Here are some essentials:

- 1) Required 40-hour "Teacher as Writer" workshop
 - a) Four graduate credits from University of Oregon
 - b) Cost is \$1,250 per teacher (to date, over 1,100 teachers have been through the program and *all* have had the workshop paid for by tuition reimbursement, professional development funds, or other district funding)
 - c) Participating schools pays \$100 per teacher (with some schools, we understand that this is difficult, so in these cases, we negotiate a compromise that might slightly reduce the total amount of program benefits, i.e. books, writers-in-residence...see below)
 - d) Workshops are offered the week of June 18 and August 20, or during the school year (these workshops during the school year cobble together a combination of in-service days, after schools sessions, Saturdays, or whatever it takes to get in the 40 hours). The August workshop will be at Fowler Middle School in Tigard; the site of the June workshop is to be determined.
 - e) Because of demand for the program, it is crucial to secure dates a.s.a.p.
 - f) Workshops are held on-site at participating schools
 - g) COW will work with schools and districts in negotiating ways to fund the program, i.e. grants, sponsorships (we have raised over \$3 million in support of schools, so we have experience doing this)
 - h) Schools more than 50 miles from Portland will be responsible for the writers' travel and lodging expenses if needed (it is often possible to get a motel to provide free lodging for the visiting writers)

COW works best when the whole staff takes the workshop, including principal, specialists, kindergarten...everyone. It's a great team-building experience, but it also assures that everyone is on the same page regarding writing instruction. We realize that at the middle school and high school levels, it is unlikely to get whole staff involvement, but we prefer to have all the language arts teachers involved.

We will accept individual teachers into a workshop, but only in the June and August workshops. We expect these teachers to go back to their schools and work to recruit whole staff involvement.

- 2) Participating teachers receive:
 - a) A workshop that provides hundreds of classroom strategies as well as first-hand experience in the writing process (over 90 % of teachers who have taken the workshop rate it as their "best ever" professional development experience)

- b) Two-weeks of a writer-in-residence (professional writers experienced in working with students and writing traits). If you have 25 teachers involved, this could mean a total of 50 separate residencies.
- c) \$300 gift card from Borders Books (to purchase books of their choice for the classroom). If you have 25 teachers involved, this could mean \$7,500 worth of books for your school.
- d) One Family Write Night (taught by professional writers)
- e) One training session for parents on how to conference with a student on a piece of writing
- f) Important team-building experience
- g) Anthologies of teacher and student writing
- h) An increased confidence in teaching writing

The goal of this program is to improve writing instruction and student achievement. It has consistently achieved measurable results in improving test scores (i.e. in 2006 Centennial's Lynch Wood Elementary went from 26% passing benchmark to 56%), but more importantly, it has improved teachers and students' attitudes about writing, which in the long run is much more important in building life-time writers.

Due to heavy demand for the program in 2007/08, we will not be able to accommodate all of the schools requesting our services. If your school is not chosen, we suggest you sign up early for the 2008/09 schoolyear. We will also come to your school to do half-day or full-day in-service training. Another valuable opportunity is Wordstock for Teachers, a one/two day program (November 9-10) held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. This professional development training is held in conjunction with Wordstock, the highly acclaimed Oregon Book Festival, an event featuring many of the greatest writers in America. For more details on Wordstock for Teachers, visit www.wordstockfestival.com.

This program IS as good as it appears.

Thank you.

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