



PRESS RELEASE

Teachers Postpone Fun in the Sun to Participate in National Writing Project Summer Institute at FGCU

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FORT MYERS, FL - Twenty-one teachers of writing from all levels and disciplines participated in the annual four-week National Writing Project's Summer Institute at Florida Gulf Coast University June 6 through July 1 to demonstrate their best practices and share classroom triumphs.

Associate dean of Graduate Studies and co-director of the National Writing Project Patricia Wachholz stressed the importance of the program as a means of having teachers swap ideas and interests in effort to excite their own students about learning.

"This is really important work that teachers are doing on our campus so they can become better teachers of writing and teaching leaders within their own school communities. Too many people think that teachers spend all their summer vacationing. I can tell you that these teachers are working very hard to be the best they can be for their students, their colleagues, and their schools," Wachholz said.

The highlight of this summer's institute was training in digital storytelling. Teachers created a digital movie presentation, using state-of-the-art technology, which they can integrate into their teaching curriculum.

Following the summer institute, the teachers take their new insights and skills back to their schools, where they bring the newest techniques, along with confidence and enthusiasm, to their classrooms.

The National Writing Project at Florida Gulf Coast University is one of 185 sites in a nationwide network of educators working together to strengthen writing instruction in America's schools. Independent evaluation finds that students in the classrooms of National Writing Project teachers make significant gains in writing achievement.

The National Writing Project at FGCU, located in the College of Education, is a grant-funded partnership and cooperative effort between FGCU and the area schools of Southwest Florida. It is an affiliate of the National Writing Project, a collaborative university-school staff development program to improve the

teaching and learning of writing in the nation's classrooms.

For more information, media representatives should contact Wachholz at (239) 590-7808 or visit the National Writing Project at FGCU website at <http://coe.fgcu.edu/fgcwp/>.



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