

## About the Boise State Writing Project:

The Boise State Writing Project, an affiliate of the National Writing Project, was established at Boise State in 2005. The National Writing Project started in 1974 and has been described by the Carnegie Commission as “the most important and influential grassroots movement for teacher improvement in the history of North America.” The National Writing Project focuses the knowledge, expertise and leadership of our nation’s educators on sustained efforts to improve writing and learning for all learners.



**Director Jeff Wilhelm and fellow Jeff Fox**



Barry Lane entertains fellows.



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Dedicated to assisting schools and teachers to assist students to greater literacy and learning. Dedicated to the proposition that expertise about teaching resides with teachers.

## The Boise state writing project



Inaugural Fellows McCall 2005

A guide to services and programs offered by the Boise State Writing Project

[www.bswproject.com](http://www.bswproject.com)

# Boise State Writing Project programs and offerings

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## **What BSWP has to offer educators:**

*Invitational Summer Institute (ISI):* This is the central signature program of the BSWP. Each year 25 teacher leaders from across the state are invited to participate in a six credit intensive course beginning their fellowship year. The credits are free. Teachers inquire into the efficacy of their own teaching, present teaching demonstrations of expert practice, articulate the principles of that practice, read, discuss and reflect on scholarly research and their own practice.

*The fellowship year:* Following the ISI, teachers are given the opportunity, support and resources to explore initiatives in the improvement of their practice and areas of interest at the classroom, school, regional and national levels.

*Advanced Summer Institutes:* Each summer, professional development opportunities at reduced tuition are offered. Past institutes include Teaching through Inquiry, Advanced Reading Institute, Writing Nonfiction, Writing Fiction, Writing for Social Change, Grammar and the Teaching of Writing, Teaching Revision and the Teacher as Researcher.

*Various activities and professional development opportunities:* Highlights include the annual Night of Inquiry, Writing Retreats, periodic reunions and conferences, online book studies, book clubs and study groups—the options are unlimited!

## **Professional Development for Schools and Districts:**

Boise State Teacher Consultants (TCs) present a variety of professional development workshops and inservices, including those for credit or CEUs. These workshops can be tailored to the needs of individual schools, groups of teachers and districts. Categories for demonstrations include: ELL/ESL, Inservice/Collaboration, Instructional Strategies, Reading, Technology and Writing. There are over 60 demonstration offerings listed on our website [www.bswproject.com](http://www.bswproject.com) under the Professional Development Tab, click Districts/Administrators. Workshops are offered at a reasonable cost and can occur for one time, or throughout a semester/school year. BSWP has already offered ten different in-service courses.

## **Recent BSWP Highlights:**

BSWP generated about \$150,000 this year through various grants and programs. Proceeds were used entirely to support teachers and teacher activity. This led to improved instruction and student achievement.

In 2008-2009, BSWP offered over 30,000 contact hours of service and professional development to over 900 teachers, students and community members.

Nearly 30 BSWP fellows from 2005-2010 have been involved in national initiatives:

*The National Reading Initiative* participants sponsored a six credit course that created five instructional DVDs. Five BSWP fellows were on an NRI team and attended two national level institutes. Three national level presentations and an on-line book club were sponsored.

*The Virtual Professional Development Site/New Teacher Mentorship Program* involved 20 fellows and 20 pre-service teachers who pursued teacher research projects about teacher efficacy.

*The Holocaust Educators Network:* BSWP is one of 8 HEN leadership sites nationally and will sponsor social justice institutes over the next three summers.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**[www.bswproject.com](http://www.bswproject.com)**