The Western Massachusetts Writing Project’s 25th annual Summer Leadership Institute will bring together outstanding teachers who work with students in all academic content areas and at all grade levels, pre-K–college. Supported by the WMWP directors and each other, these teachers will spend three weeks immersed in writing, reading, and teacher inquiry, ultimately returning to their schools as WMWP Teacher-Consultants. In this capacity, they may contribute to the professional growth of their colleagues; lead workshops and courses in area schools for WMWP; and present their research in local, regional, and national venues. In this way, the Summer Institute represents the first leg in what thousands of National Writing Project teachers around the country have described as a career-transforming journey.

As participants, teachers will engage in their own writing to explore ways to use writing more meaningfully in their classrooms. They will participate in a collaborative inquiry community: reading current theory and research, engaging in classroom-based action research, and presenting a professional workshop. Inquiry will focus on the following themes:

CLASSROOM INQUIRY: How can reflecting on my teaching help me ask meaningful questions to improve my practice?

REFLECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION: How do I incorporate change into my practice? How can attention to difference in my classroom inform my pedagogy and/or curriculum?

LANGUAGE AND POWER: How can language be used in a classroom to empower or disempower students? How can a student's native language be valued in my classroom?

LITERACY AND LEARNING: How can I help students become more confident and effective writers and readers? What writing-to-learn and critical reading strategies can I use to help students develop content knowledge and understanding?

“This program made me feel more confident as a teacher, writer, and presenter.”

Are you eager to strengthen literacy practices in your classroom to enable students to express themselves more effectively and understand content more thoroughly? Are you ready to grow as a teacher-leader? Read on!
WMWP Summer Leadership Institute Fast Facts

WHO: Pre-K through college teachers, administrators, and content specialists in all disciplines

WHAT: The best professional development you have ever experienced

WHERE: University of Massachusetts Amherst

WHEN: 
- Meet-and-Greet Session for Applicants: Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Orientation Day: Saturday, June 3, 2017, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Summer Institute: Monday - Friday, June 26 – July 14, 2017, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- School-year Follow-up Meetings: TBA

WHY: To grow as a teacher, learner, and leader

YOU GET: 
- 135 PDPs (total for summer and school-year programs)
- $400 tuition subsidy and free parking
- Optional 6 graduate credits (at $100 per credit plus registration fee)
- Free membership in the WMWP and National Writing Project educator networks
- Preparation to lead professional development programs as a paid teacher-consultant

COST: None to you except for optional course credits. (School districts are asked to contribute $500 per participant to invest in teacher leadership.)

Space is limited. Submit your application soon!

Apply online at https://goo.gl/forms/Nt64VRM1GWRV6ePh1.

Deadline: March 1, 2016.

Questions: Contact Summer Institute Director Alicia Lopez at haninalopez@gmail.com.

“All my fondest dreams for this program were met. I found inspiration and support for my writing, my action research, and my hopes in fostering the same inquiry-based discussion with my coworkers.”

“I can't say enough about how valuable this experience has been. Being surrounded by teachers whose classrooms range from Pre-K to 12 has given me such a wide perspective on what it means to write and teach writing.

–2016 Summer Institute Participants