The Western Massachusetts Writing Project’s 27th annual Summer Leadership Institute will bring together outstanding teachers who work with students in all academic content areas and at all grade levels, PK–college. Supported by the WMWP facilitators and each other, these teachers will spend three summer weeks and three school-year meetings immersed in writing, reading, and teacher inquiry, ultimately earning the WMWP Teacher-Consultant Credential. As WMWP “TCs” 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 Leadership 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 and peer response more meaningfully in their classrooms. They will also participate in a collaborative inquiry community: reading current theory and research, engaging in classroom-based action research, and developing and presenting a professional workshop. Inquiry will focus on the following themes:

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

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

**LANGUAGE AND POWER:** How can language be used in a classroom to empower or disempower students? How can students’ native languages be valued in school?

**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 my students develop their 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 help students understand content more thoroughly and express themselves more effectively? Are you ready to grow as a teacher-leader?

Read on!
WMWP Summer Leadership Institute Fast Facts

WHO: PK through college teachers, administrators, and content specialists in all disciplines

WHAT: The best professional development you have ever experienced

WHERE: South College, University of Massachusetts Amherst

WHEN: 
- **Meet-and-Greet Sessions for Applicants:** Online via Zoom, dates to be announced
- **Orientation Day:** Saturday, June 8, 2019, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- **Summer Institute:** Monday – Friday, July 1 – July 19, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **School-year Follow-up Meetings:** October, January, and April, dates to be announced

WHY: To grow as a writer, researcher, and presenter

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

COST: $500, not including the optional course credits. (School districts are encouraged to contribute this registration fee to invest in you as a teacher leader.)

Apply online at [https://tinyurl.com/2019SLI](https://tinyurl.com/2019SLI)

WMWP has a rolling admissions policy, and the institute is normally filled by April: Apply early to ensure a space! After May 1, applications will be considered only on a space-available basis.

Questions: Contact Summer Institute Co-Director Chris Rea at chrisrea27@gmail.com.

Summer Leadership Institute Co-Facilitators

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Single dorm rooms with AC are available at $45/night for participants who live beyond commuting distance.

“This was the best PD ever. I think it really elevates the profession… teaching is not a 9-5; it is a vocation. Some educators might lose sight of that when they are bogged down with the politics of their schools. This institute was just a great opportunity to talk with other educators and reflect on our profession. This is vital to our practice.”

“I have concrete strategies to try in the classroom. It was amazing to have a chance to really reflect on my work outside of the school year. I am so glad I did the SLI!”

“I would tell others that no matter what their subject area is, they would benefit … SLI is helpful for all teachers.”

—2018 SLI participants

Chris Rea, SLI 2014  Hollington Lee, SLI 2014