

'09 Convention highlights

'English...for a change' challenges teachers to embrace social justice issues in class

"Schools don't set out to commit linguistic genocide," Linda Christensen said in her keynote address at the WCTE Convention in October.

"The legacy of language needs to change," she said. To illustrate, she used her own students (on video) and one of her lesson activities for the audience to participate in.

power of language and the inequities in society tied to that power.



Brenda Cárdenas is assistant professor in the Creative Writing program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She wrote a chapbook of poetry "From the Tongues of Brick and Stone" and full-length book "Boomerang."

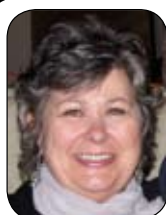
At lunch poet Brenda Cárdenas read her bilingual poetry which focused on her own experiences, family and friends. Characters came alive as they spoke a blend of English and Spanish, conveying the context and ideas more meaningfully. For one poem she included computer animation on the screen, created by a student to illustrate the poem's meaning for him.

Throughout the day, sessions were bundled into four time slots, featuring a wide variety of topics, including use of technology, reading comprehension, social justice issues, literature, grammar, writing and more. Christenson did a hands-on practical session about unlearning language stereotypes.



Donna Pasternak began her term as WCTE president at this convention. She is associate professor of education at UW-Milwaukee. She supports social justice issues [see video link above for her message] and encourages teachers to plan now for the 2010 WCTE convention. [See p. 5 to submit proposals.]

Evaluation responses from events like the convention provide valuable feedback to planners so that they know what worked and what didn't. Go to p. 4 to read a sampling of responses from this year's convention evaluations.



Linda Christensen is the director of the Oregon Writing Project and is an editor of the "Rethinking Schools" magazine. Her keynote topic was "Putting Out the Linguistic Welcome Mat: Teaching about Language and Power."

Christensen directed a "Tea Party" activity. Everyone in the audience received identity sheets of real people who had been affected negatively by language domination and forced in some way to change their language.

After reading about their person's experience with language domination, teachers got up and out of their seats to "meet" others and ask about their experience.

For example, Christopher Barszcz of Pulaski High School in Milwaukee took on the role of Esther Martinez. Using his handout, he told her story to his partner: Martinez was not allowed to speak her Tewa language at Indian boarding school. As an adult she became one of the greatest champions in the fight to preserve this language.

"The Tea Party activity was intriguing. [I] liked the variety of her presentation. She walks the walk and talks the talk, unlike most education presenters I've seen."

~ comment on evaluation sheet

After attendees shared with several people, Christensen showed the video of her own students' reactions to this activity. They were clearly aware of the

DPI ENGLISH

Testing, standards update

Having a hard time keeping up with what's going on with English in Wisconsin and the nation? Emilie Amundson, DPI English language arts consultant, talks about the Wisconsin English standards revision and the move toward common core standards across the country.

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PEOPLE

WCTE, NCTE Awards

Recipients of WCTE's awards represent what is best about English education and commitment to the profession. Meet this year's award winners. NCTE gives annual student writing awards. WCTE wins Affiliate Award from NCTE.

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OF INTEREST

UW-M Writing Project

Find out how you can apply for the 2010 Summer Institute.

>>Page 4

GETTING INVOLVED

Professional Issues

Get in on the ground floor as WCTE's Professional Issues committee forms. This is your chance to get involved in the development of policy and direction for English education in Wisconsin.

>>Page 4

Eau Claire: 2010 convention

Save the date: Oct. 22, 2010. "Finding the Balance: Traditional Content vs. Contemporary Technology" will feature Hilve Firek, assistant professor at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

>>Page 5

FOR CLASS

Writing, using vocabulary

Want to engage your students with authentic writing and enriching vocabulary? Try The New York Times and the Web site, Visual Thesaurus.

>>Page 6

BRIEFLY

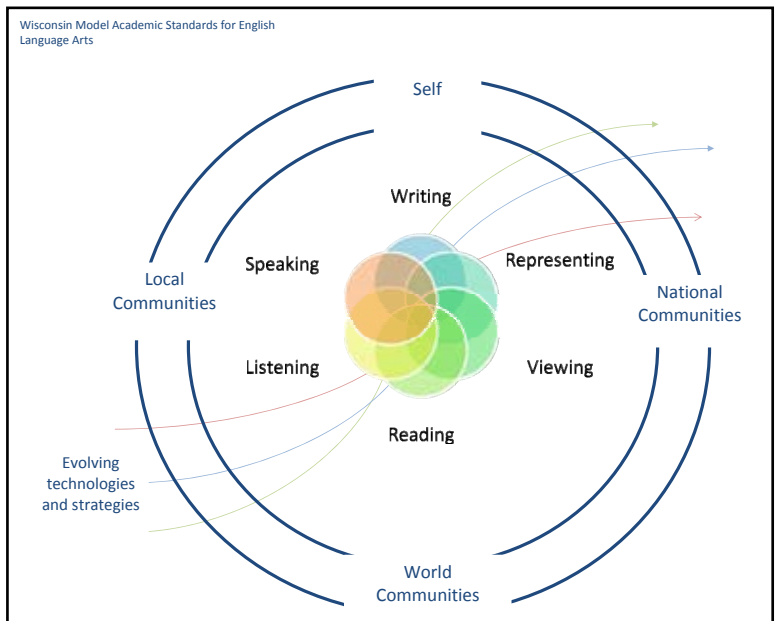
National Board Certification

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Update on Wisconsin Model Academic Standards Revision

The last twelve months have been an exciting time for the discipline of English language arts, both here in Wisconsin, and also nationally. The ongoing process to revise the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards continues, and a new draft is available for viewing and conversation at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/cal/standards-revisions.html>. The proposed revisions are designed to guide classroom instruction by setting learning priorities across four grade bands: PK-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

This graphic at the right was created to visually summarize the key concepts of the new ELA standards draft. In examining the graphic, note the interrelatedness of the language arts, and the connections among reading, listening and viewing as receptive processes, and writing, speaking and representing as expressive processes. Notice how using media and technology is no longer an end in itself, but rather a vehicle for engaging in these critical processes, and finally, note that our discipline is firmly situated in the context of self, local, national and world communities.

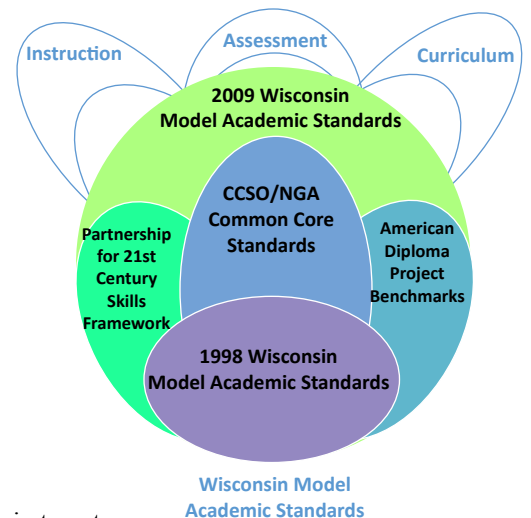


Common Core Standards: National Standards for English Language Arts

This summer also marked the beginning of an important national conversation about English Language Arts standards. The National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) are leading an initiative to develop Common Core Standards which would begin with a set of high school exit benchmarks and follow with a set of K-12 standards for English language arts and mathematics. Wisconsin is one of 47 states committed to this project.

The Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards (high school exit benchmarks) were released in a draft version for public comment in mid-September. Following the finalizing of the high school exit expectations, the Common Core K-12 standards will move through a comment period prior to their release, scheduled for early 2010.

In light of this national initiative, the Department of Public Instruction will not finalize the draft Wisconsin standards until the Common Core alignment process is made clear later this school year. While not finalized, the trends and directions of Wisconsin's draft standards parallel the Common Core Standards in some ways, and go beyond in others, especially as they relate to 21st century skills and processes. The graphic in the box at the right helps to unpack the multiple lenses the Wisconsin writing team has used to reflect and revise the current draft in light of this national conversation. Zoom in to get all the details.



Next Steps

Finalizing of Wisconsin's standards in ELA and mathematics likely will occur later in the 2009-2010 school year. Simultaneous with the revisions of Wisconsin's standards, DPI will be transforming the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam. The national discussion of common assessments will also likely impact state level assessment decisions.

On Dec. 4 we learned that the NGA and CCSSO are using the public comments to inform the final version of the college- and career-readiness standards. To that end, a summary of the public feedback they received is available at: <http://www.corestandards.org/Files/CorePublicFeedback.pdf>. Please stay connected to WCTE for more news about the ELA standards, Common Core initiative and the next generation of state assessment.

PEOPLE

WCTE honors teachers with awards at Fall Convention in Milwaukee

ROBERT C. POOLEY AWARD



Erin Schwane of New Berlin West High School, is working on her Ph.D. Her dissertation research explores female English/Language Arts teachers' life histories with technology.

LUCILLE S. POOLEY AWARD



Elizabeth Jorgensen, Arrowhead Union High School, Hartford, won this creative teaching award for creating hybrid courses that blend online learning with traditional classes.

ENGLISH TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE



Mary Beaman-Risch, Tomah High School, received this NCTE award in recognition of her teaching. She has developed materials for Fullbright projects now used in many states.

LEADERSHIP AWARD



Anthony Wacker, Vincent High School, Milwaukee, received this award for his collaborative work online and in person with UW-Stevens Point pre-service teachers and his own students.

CHISHOLM AWARD



Carol Conway-Gerhardt, president of the Green Bay Area Catholic School System, received this award for distinguished service to the teaching of English in Wisconsin.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT TEACHER



Kelly Knudsen, Stevens Point Area Senior High School, believes in a student-focused classroom, involving students in decision-making and learning. She student taught at Stratford High School.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT TEACHER



Amy E. Harter, Milwaukee School of Languages, designed a project-based curriculum during her student teaching at Pulaski High School, Milwaukee. She believes in the transformative power of language.

NANCY HOEFS OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR TEACHER



Danielle Hartke, Riverside Univ. High School, Milwaukee, incorporates authentic writing assignments, uses community resources and has her students study collaboratively with students in rural areas.

PEOPLE

NCTE recognizes Wisconsin students' writing

NCTE Achievement in Writing

Miranda Bishop
Kiara Peterson

Chippewa Falls High School, Chippewa Falls

Octavio Baretto
Caitlin Bobber

Eisenhower High School, New Berlin

Rebecca Gehrmann

Edgewood High School, Madison

Abigail Mitchell

Sarah Prescott

James Madison Memorial High School, Madison

Jesse Marczewski

Muskego High School, Muskego

Danielle Pazurek

Lincoln High School, Wisconsin Rapids

Ben Klug

Oona MacKesy-Green

Larissa Walder

Madison West High School, Madison

NCTE Promising Young Writer

Audrey Johnson

Central Middle School, Waukesha

David Kocik

Hudson Middle School, Hudson

Emma Auden

Jaffna Mathiapparanam
Madison Middle School, Appleton

Jacob Scobey-Polacheck

St. Monica School, Whitefish Bay

Lucia Kissinger

Whitman Middle School, Wauwatosa

PEOPLE

WCTE wins NCTE Affiliate Award for increase in membership

The Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English has earned an NCTE Affiliate Membership Award for increasing its membership by more than 20 percent from 2008 to 2009.

WCTE was honored at the NCTE annual convention in Philadelphia. Award certificates were presented at the Affiliate Roundtable Breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 21.

Millie Davis, NCTE Division Director of Communication and Affiliate Services, notified the WCTE board in mid-October. In her letter, she said, "Membership recruitment is an ongoing task that requires innovation, persistence and accurate record keeping. I applaud your affiliate both for its efforts and for its success. Keep up the good work!"



Tom Scott represents WCTE in accepting the award from Dave Wendelin, chair of NCTE Standing committee on Affiliates.

OF INTEREST >> from Donna Pasternak, director of UW-M Writing Project

UW-M Writing Project accepting applications to 2010 Summer Institute

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Writing Project (UWMWP) selects up to 20 teachers each summer to participate in an Invitational Summer Institute.

The 2010 Institute will be June 21-July 22, 2010, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus.

Teachers from all grade levels (PK-16) and all subject areas are invited to apply. UW-MWP offers five full scholarships for teachers in their induction years (completing 1-3 years of teaching experience) and 15 partial scholarships for all other teachers.

Summer fellows who are selected to participate will earn six graduate credits as they focus attention on their own writing and as teachers of writing.

Applications are available at writingproject.uwm.edu and are due Feb. 12, 2010. Interviews will be held on Feb. 27, 2010, with notification of acceptance on March 5, 2010. A required pre-conference institute will be held April 24, 2010.



Photo by Jenny Husa

David Glaub of UW-Parkside, Julie Turetsky of UW-Milwaukee and Kerry Thomas of Rufus King IB High School participate in an activity embedded in a teaching demonstration at their orientation session in April 2008. They were part of the first National Writing Project group at UW-Milwaukee.

GETTING INVOLVED >> from Tom Pamperin, Professional Issues chair

WCTE invites teachers to join new Professional Issues committee

WCTE renewed its commitment to giving teachers a voice in education policy development by creating a Professional Issues Committee at its October board meeting.

The new committee is charged with tracking, reporting on and making recommendations about issues that will affect the discipline of English in Wisconsin and around the nation. **The WCTE board is extending an invitation to any interested members to join in this important work.**

This ad hoc committee is charged with two tasks:

First, it will determine whether there is a place for a standing committee on Professional Issues to continue our work, and

make the appropriate recommendation to the WCTE executive board next year.

At the same time, the committee will need to figure out what a permanent Professional Issues Committee should do — in effect, designing the work by doing it. This will involve several simultaneous threads, which may include:

- working closely with DPI and other policy makers to identify important policy issues;
- communicating those issues to English teachers around the state;
- asking other advocacy groups for help in developing effective lobbying strategies;

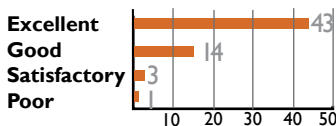
- surveying English teachers for their opinions on policy issues;
- preparing WCTE position statements on issues; and
- editorializing on those issues as representatives of WCTE.

If you are interested in being a part of shaping educational policy, please consider joining WCTE's Professional Issues Committee.

As you can see, there will plenty of ways to contribute. For more information or to join, please contact Tom Pamperin, chair of the committee, at pampert@chipfalls.k12.wi.us or 715.726.2406 ext. 1122. Pamperin teaches at Chippewa Falls High School.

CONVENTION COMMENTS

How would you rate the overall convention experience?



These comments are from the evaluation forms.

- Good information to use in classrooms as well as examples
- I loved hearing poetry during lunch.

- I wanted to know where to get more information from [Linda Christensen].
- Learned lots. Thank you.
- Location great. Parking terrible.
- More time at lunch to talk
- Keep up the technology focus in our literacy/language arts world, please.
- I'm glad there were more sessions this year.
- Aim for more interactive and practical classroom applications.

Are you looking for a session idea to propose for next year's convention? Here are some topics that people said they want to hear more about.

- plagiarism
- remediation and credit deficient students
- how to deal with Direct Instruction Reading Programs
- budget restraints: finding free resources and make the most of available money
- grading

- sessions for middle school
- collaboration
- authentic writing
- rigorous curriculum and expectations
- technology in the English classroom
- poetry, poetry, poetry
- text selection
- student engagement
- adolescent literacy
- inclusion
- Understanding by Design
- achievement gap

GETTING INVOLVED

2010 Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference Program Proposal and Volunteer Transmittal

E-mail or Fax form by May 1 to Lynn Aprill, 2010 WCTE Program Chair, aprillyn@bonduel.k12.wi.us or (715) 758-4859

Service to the Profession:

Are you willing to work at the conference or become active on a WCTE Committee whether or not you present at the conference (check all that apply)?

☐ Sectional Introducer ☐ Registration Desk ☐ Membership Desk ☐ Convention Planning
☐ Centennial Planning ☐ Multicultural ☐ District Representative ☐ Awards & Honors
☐ Strategic Planning ☐ Publications ☐ Advocacy ☐ English Education

Program Proposal:

Name	
School/Institutional Affiliation	
Contact Information Address, City, State, Zip	Check one: () home () work
Contact Information Phone	Check one: () home () work () cell
Contact Information E-mail	Check one: () personal () work
Session Title (This should reveal the content of your session.)	
Abstract (A brief description of our session that will appear in the conference program. Approximately 50 words.)	
Session Length	Check one: () 50 minutes () 75 minutes
Target Audience (Check all that apply.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Middle <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> College <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Service Teachers <input type="checkbox"/> First-Year Teachers <input type="checkbox"/> General
AV Equipment (Specify if audiovisual equipment is needed. Computers and projectors supplied by presenters.)	
Teacher Standards (Indicate which Wisconsin State Teacher Standards are addressed in our session. See http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsis/tel/stand10.html for a description of the 10 Wisconsin State Teacher Standards.)	
Description: Please attach a page to describe the format of the sessions, including topics to be covered and methods/activities to be used.	

Improving students' writing with vocabulary enrichment

If you prefer, go to http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/NIE/NYT_EE_Class_Sub_Writable_2009-2010.pdf to fill out the form and send it in.

Since the early 1970s Bob has been a newspaper in education consultant for The New York Times, producing and editing Times curriculum guides and presenting Times workshops and talks to teachers, students and other audiences.



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>>Taken from the Visual Thesaurus Web site

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to announce new NBCTs

To learn more about National Board Certification, go to the National Board Web site. Wisconsin NBCTs have formed a network to support candidates who are pursuing certification. Go to their Web site to learn about workshops and to learn about reimbursement for the costs associated with the National Board process and the yearly grants available to NBCTs in Wisconsin.

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22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

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