



Whole Language Umbrella

2009 Whole Language Umbrella Annual Report

The Whole Language Umbrella has engaged in the following actions from July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009:

- √ Hosted a successful 2008 Conference, *Critical Reflections: Honoring and Nurturing the Whole Child*. The conference featured Carole Edelsky, Kathy Short, Bob Wortman and author Monica Brown. 262 participants registered and attended the conference approximately 10% of which were international attendees/members. -- 91 of which attended the preconference (*Pedagogies and Policies for a New Era*) and 87 participated in the luncheon
- √ Selected Columbia, South Carolina as the site for our 2009 Summer Institute July 9-12, 2009. Given the strong support in conference planning from the local Tucson community, WLU selected a site with similar opportunities for local support and collaboration. At the same time we continue to vary our locations regionally and select sites based on the economically responsible contracts.
- √ Launched on-line proposal system and new timelines. Ten members, beyond the board, participated in the review process. The new process and timeline enabled the construction of the program at the November board meeting. Earlier program notification of program status aided with program and financial planning. 110 strong proposals were submitted by the new Oct 15th deadline using the online proposal system.
- √ Planned the 2009 Literacies for All Summer Institute; *Learning in the Company of Others: Reading, Writing, and Inquiring in the 21st Century*. For the second consecutive year we have approached conference planning immediately (and intensely) following the wrap up of our annual institute. In September, we secured our featured speakers. They include Lorriane Wilson and Brian Cambourne; Heidi Mills and Tim O'Keefe; Carman Agra Deedy (author) and Katie Wood Ray. Susi Long and teaching colleagues agreed to host a luncheon with a focused titled: *Don't drop us at the schoolhouse door: Tensions and Triumphs in the early years of teaching*. A PreConference Workshop, *Reframing & Reclaiming Whole Language: Building a New Image for a New Era*, was planned. Throughout our planning we worked with our local chair (Marcie Ellerbee) and University of South Carolina colleagues to plan and promote our conference.
- √ Utilized a committee work structure and extranet for board planning and work. As board members took responsibility for key organizational tasks, board members tracked their work, submitted reports and began a written history of the work we do and the processes utilized to engage in such work. Furthermore, formalizing the role of a conference co-chair was intended to help build an apprenticeship cycle.

- √ Selected Lucy Spence as our first web editor. Throughout the year Lucy collaborated with the board to design our website, integrate useful features, and plan for more audio and video contributions. Lucy planned an interview protocol and structure for the 2009 annual summer institute.
- √ Launched the Day of Whole Language at NCTE's annual convention with keynote speakers Peter Johnston, Peegan Jensen and Elizabeth Yanoff. They spoke to a full room of enthusiastic audience. The Monday Photovoice workshop invited participants to collectively study the impacts of NCLB through image. Participants continue to connect and collaborate through an online discussion forum and have submitted a collaborative proposal for NCTE 2009.
- √ Published two issues of Talking Points and new web features including a podcast of featured speakers.
- √ Created guidelines and process for scholarship. As of June 1, 2009 two of the three award recipients had plans to attend the conference in Columbia.
- √ Drafted guidelines for launching the small meetings loan/grant program. The board intends to launch the program January 5, 2010.
- √ Issued the call for new team of Talking Points editors.
- √ Elicited nominations for 2 board positions and elected two new board members – Bonnee Bresee and Barbara McKenzie.
- √ Selected 2010 conference site (Indianapolis) in January 2009.
- √ Instituted local conference chair position for conference planning.

-Katie Van Sluys
WLU President