

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. Agenda Item Title: Southern Nevada Writing Project at UNLV**

**Meeting Date: December 3 - 4, 2015**

**2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

The Southern Nevada Writing Project (SNWP) is located at UNLV and directed by Professor Marilyn McKinney from the College of Education's Teaching and Learning Department.

As one of nearly 200 writing projects sites in the National Writing Project (NWP) network, SNWP is a research-based professional development model aimed at improving the teaching of writing and learning; it serves as a "professional home" for over 100 NWP trained teacher-consultants. Beginning in 1984, SNWP is one of the longest standing programs at UNLV. With a tagline of "Changing Teachers Lives", SNWP is dedicated to providing teachers with a professional community and resources to effect and improve teaching throughout their careers.

**3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

UNLV President Len Jessup will introduce Kim Metcalf, Dean, College of Education, and Mr. Ian Salzman, SNWP participant and 2015 Teacher of the Year, to present for information about SNWP, a collaborative program with the Clark County School District and one of the longest standing programs at UNLV.

**4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

Per the request of Vice Chairman Wixom, who met Mr. Salzman at a conference and requested President Jessup share information about this program with the Board, Dean Metcalf will update the Board on the success and impact of SNWP, both locally and nationally.

**5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- SNWP is one of the longest running programs at UNLV serving educators and youth throughout southern Nevada.
- SNWP has impacted over 1,200 teachers who have in turn affected several thousand students throughout the 31 years on the UNLV campus.
- At a time when the teacher shortage is of utmost concern in Nevada, SNWP is one of the many ways the College of Education is addressing this and other important education issues in Nevada.

**6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- The Board may not have time to hear this update due to time constrictions.

**7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

- Do not provide an update.

**8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_



# Southern Nevada Writing Project

*Changing Teachers' Lives*

Ian Salzman  
Co-director, SNWP  
2015 Nevada Teacher of the Year



The National Writing Project is the only national professional development program that focuses on the teaching of writing.



**1.4**

million students reached annually

**3,000**

school districts served nationwide

**100,000**

teacher-participants

**3,000**

new teacher-leaders each year

**193**

university-based Writing Project sites



## Locally, SNWP:

- Serves as a “professional home” for over 100 Writing Project trained teacher-consultants.
- Has trained 1200 teacher-leaders through an intensive Writing Project institute since 1984.
- Reaches hundreds of students at three locations at Summer Youth Writing Camps, led by trained staff.
- Has provided over 5,000 contact hours annually for local educators through various professional development programs.



# SNWP Addresses the Teacher Shortage

- At a time when teacher shortage and retention are of upmost concern in our state, SNWP, the UNLV College of Education, and the Department of Teaching and Learning are addressing important education issues through:
  - Mentoring & leadership opportunities
  - Professional development
  - Investing in the future of teaching



# Changing Teachers' Lives

