



Humanities, Social Sciences, and Interdisciplinary Studies

Samuel Stinson
Humanities, Social Sciences, and Interdisciplinary Studies
Minot State University
500 University Ave W, Minot, ND 58707

March 10, 2025

Chairman Sorvaag and Members of the Committee,

In my capacity as the director of the Northern Plains Writing Project (NPWP), I am requesting an increase in our support with respect to HB 1013 from \$20,000 to \$36,000 for the 2025-2027 biennium for NPWP. The included documents provide a project summary that overviews the efforts of NPWP and our plans going forward. We are a growing program that hopes to increase our footprint throughout the state of North Dakota with the mission and aim to reach K-12 teachers and assist in their professional development, growth in scholarship, and outreach in the classroom for writing.

During the past several biennia the NPWP has grown to include both a summer and advanced institute, a listserv connecting teacher-consultants (TCs), and participants from all around North Dakota. We have also featured guest speakers who are published authors and educators who have shared their writerly expertise. We are excited at the potential for growth during the next biennium. Your financial support is integral to our work.

Thank you for your consideration of this increase and for your continued support of our program.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel Stinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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English Program
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The Northern Plains Writing Project DPI Project Summary, Scope of Work, and Mission and Aim

Mission and Aim:

To reach K-12 teachers and assist in their professional development, growth in scholarship, and outreach in the classroom for writing.

Project Summary & Scope of Work:

Our Summer and Advanced Institutes are located at Minot State University in the Graduate Program in English. Teacher-consultants (TCs) taking the institutes within NPWP have the option and opportunity to receive up to six graduate credits in the graduate program each summer with the listed courses in view. TCs may also elect to receive continuing education credits. The institutes run simultaneously for eight weeks in the summer, and TCs will typically take the summer institute during the first year, and the advanced institute during the second year.

Institutes include professional development training in the areas of digital literacy, generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), and project-based learning emphasizing knowledge and skills that can inform lesson plans for K-12 educators.

Summer Institute

English 516: Research in Teaching Writing. Readings in the research, theory, and practice of teaching writing. Emphasis on constructing position papers which demonstrate synthesis, evaluation, and application of concepts from readings.

English 536: Enrich Reading in Content Area. Reading in the research, theory, and practice of teaching and using reading in the classroom. Emphasis on constructing position papers which demonstrate synthesis, evaluation, and application of concepts from the readings.

Advanced Institute

English 525: Topics in Language Arts Pedagogy. Focused study in recent theoretical developments in language arts pedagogy for the English classroom. Emphasis on weaving language study into student-centered classroom approaches. Topics vary for each offering.

English 545: Topics in Teaching Writing. Focused study in teaching and using writing in the classroom. Topics vary for each offering.