

Senate Appropriations- Education and Environment Division Public Hearing on HB1013

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of public instruction, the state library, the school for the deaf, and North Dakota vision services - school for the blind; and to provide an exemption.

January 23, 2025

Testimony of Adetutu Segun, Masters of Education Graduate Student

Good day, Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee,

I am Adetutu Segun, an International Graduate Student of the Department of Education and Inclusive Services at Minot State University. I am writing to express my strong support for the Department of Public Instruction's grant funding for North Dakota's writing project sites, particularly the Northern Plains Writing Project (NPWP). As a graduate student of education at Minot State University, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of programs like NPWP in nurturing both educators and students in the art and skill of writing.

During my graduate studies, I had the privilege of engaging with offshoots of this program. The resources, mentorship, and collaborative environment it provided were pivotal in shaping my perspective on education and shaping my writing skills. As a business analyst that engages in communication (whether I am writing reports that persuade stakeholders or explaining project needs to cross-functional teams) and also as an aspiring educator, I have been equipped with innovative strategies to foster critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills in my future students' skills that are crucial in today's world.

One particular program focused on integrating writing across curriculums, profoundly influenced how I approach lesson planning. It helped me understand how writing can be a tool not just for communication but for learning itself. In another, I successfully wrote a paper titled ***'Instructional Challenges and Strategies for Addressing Them – Experience from a Rural School in the Niger Delta State of Nigeria'*** that has been submitted for publication.

Currently, I am writing my thesis, and the skills and support I gained through my involvement with an offshoot of the NPWP have made the process significantly easier. The program provided me with a strong foundation in writing and research, enabling me to approach this critical academic milestone with confidence and clarity.

The impact of the NPWP is not limited to my personal experience. Several of my fellow graduate students, many of whom are currently teaching in North Dakota schools, have also

been impacted by the program which has revitalized their teaching practices. Students and Educators that have participated in this program have commented on how it has helped improve their writing and communication skills. The result was a noticeable increase in students' confidence and ability to articulate their thoughts in writing. Programs like NPWP provide educators with the support they need to innovate and inspire, even in the face of limited resources.

Writing project programs are very important because they help students and teachers with writing. For students, especially those in areas with fewer resources, good writing instruction can make a big difference, help in their writing projects, create a passion for writing and learning. It helps them speak up for themselves and do well in school. For teachers, these programs offer useful training and support. They create communities where teachers can share ideas and improve their learning, writing and teaching.

By approving the grant to NPWP, you are not just investing in programs, you are investing in educators, students, and the future of our state of North Dakota. The NPWP has proven its ability to make a lasting impact, and its continued success hinges on your support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sincerely,

Adetutu Segun

Graduate Student, Minot State University