



Division of World Languages and
Cultural Studies

Samuel Stinson
Division of World Languages and Cultural Studies
c/o Minot State University
500 University Ave W, Minot, ND 58707

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

In my capacity as the director of the Northern Plains Writing Project (NPWP), which is co-located in Minot, ND alongside Minot State University, I am requesting an increase in our support with respect to SB 2013 from \$25,000 to \$45,000 for the 2023-2025 biennium for NPWP. In these included documents I am providing a project summary that overviews the efforts of NPWP and our plans going forward to expand. 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 previous biennium we entered a new renaissance period for NPWP in which we grew to include both a summer and advanced institute, three summer cohort meetings for all members of NPWP both past and present, and to include teacher-consultants (TCs) and other participants in our institutes from all around the state of North Dakota and five countries simultaneously during our online asynchronous meetings, including guest speakers. We are excited at the potential for growth during the next biennium, with your financial support an integral part of 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".

Samuel Stinson, Ph.D.
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Director, Northern Plains Writing Project
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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 co-located at Minot State University with 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. 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.

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.

Summer Cohort

These are meetings where the entire NPWP can meet virtually three times each summer, involving TCs taking current institutes to those from institutes past. We generally bring in outside speakers, write together, and share the writing we're doing.

**DPI Budget Request for the 2023-2025 Biennium with Estimated Expenses
Northern Plains Writing Project (NPWP)**

NPWP is co-located with Minot State University. Minot State University has redesigned its graduate English program to feature an online learning platform. The online model assists teachers working toward a master’s degree or completing professional development hours. The application period for 2023 runs from April 1--May 15. Classes begin May 30. Dr. Samuel Stinson and Dr. Laura Zucca-Scott co-teach the courses in conjunction with the Northern Plains Writing Project. The Project will be conducted online. NPWP currently receives support from two sources: State dollars provided through the generous support of the state of North Dakota and support from Minot State University appearing as tuition waivers for those participants taking graduate credits.

Summer and Advanced Institutes \$28,000

In 2022, 13 participants received tuition scholarship stipends covering graduate credit. MSU tuition waivers for this period also applied, with students paying the difference for tuition and books. In biennium 2023-2025, we hope to have a similar number of participants each year.

NWP Continuing Association Fee \$2,000

This fee is paid yearly at the amount of \$1,000 per year.

Summer Cohort Meetings \$0

Because we meet virtually for our three summer cohort meetings, there is currently no associated cost.

Conference Participation \$3,000

\$2,000 is requested to support travel, registration fees, and materials for TCs attending conferences such as NDCTE in Mandan, ND and conferences outside of the state.

Inservice Teacher Training \$0

We plan to work with TCs to develop their teacher in-service meetings this biennium.

Summer Workshop Development for K-12 Educators \$12,000

This funding would support the TC development of additional summer workshops for K-12 educators for teaching writing. The funds would primarily go toward stipends, travel expenses, training sessions to prepare TCs leading the sessions for the summer workshops, and the hosting of the workshops in Minot and throughout the state.

TOTAL 2023-2025 Biennium Budget **\$ 45,000**



Earn graduate credits this summer through Minot State's Northern Plains Writing Project!

Minot State University has redesigned its graduate English program to feature an online learning platform. The online model will help assist area teachers in working toward a master's degree or completing professional development hours.

Dr. Samuel Stinson and Dr. Laura Zucca-Scott will co-teach the courses in conjunction with the 2023 Northern Plains Writing Project (NPWP).

The NPWP offers:

- Financial awards that cover substantial costs for six graduate credits, books, and registration fees.
- Credits that can be used as part of the Master of Education program, with a concentration in English.
Note: The English concentration sufficiently qualifies teachers to teach at the University level, should they wish and the opportunity arises.
- Online meetings. All institutes meet virtually online during the summer in order to include participants from across the state and beyond.
- Opportunities to convene at the North Dakota Council of Teachers of English Conference, held Aug. 1 – 2, to discuss projects completed through the NPWP.
- Reimbursement of up to \$100 for presenting in-service at your school.
- Community-building via networking and brainstorming with others.

Application Open:
April 1 – May 15

Class Dates:
May 30 – July 27

APPLY AT:
[MinotStateU.edu/npwp/
pages/form.shtml](https://MinotStateU.edu/npwp/pages/form.shtml)



Additional information:
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