

ADJUSTING YOUR TEACHING COMPASS TO "TRUE NORTH"

Cultivating Literary Expertise, New Teaching Practices, and Literacy Leadership



DIRECTOR:	CATHERINE D'AOUST
CO-DIRECTORS:	MARIANNE STEWART & MARY WIDTMANN
CLASS:	EDUCATION X332.7
LOCATION:	SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
DATES:	JUNE 28 - JULY 22, 2021 MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. (VIRTUAL)

PURPOSE:

The centerpiece of the UCI Writing Project is our Summer Institute, an intensive four-week, 100-hour seminar for teachers (elementary through university) in the field. This year teachers will focus on redefining and adjusting classroom teaching to find "True North" during a pandemic that has unsettled teaching practices. Important time will be spent identifying specific strategies and practices that meet the contextual needs of students. The Summer Institute will model and provide options for promoting literacy in both digital and in-person contexts. The institute will engage participants in thinking deeply about their practice as they enhance their own abilities as writers and develop as leaders in the field.

SELECTION OF FELLOWS AND STIPEND:

Interested fellows should apply to the program by sending their applications and the requested documents to Sasha Stone at stonesj@uci.edu. The deadline to submit applications is **March 19, 2021**. After March 19, 2021, applicants may be contacted for interviews which will be scheduled two-weeks after the deadline. Fellowships are awarded on the basis of the candidate's statement of purpose and commitment to improving the reading, thinking and writing skills of students, letters of reference, personal interview, and potential as a leader in the field. Those selected to participate in the Summer Institute will receive a total stipend of \$1,000: this stipend requires participation in the Summer Institute and two follow-up meetings. Ten-quarter units of academic credit are available for a minimal fee.

FORMAT:

Presentation by Fellows – Each Fellow will deliver an informal presentation to the group within the area of his/her expertise. Presenters will be encouraged to share specific lesson plans and to provide handouts and suggested reading lists. Presenters may ask the group to participate in writing exercises and other assignments. These presentations are part of a group-teach approach to the Institute and are designed to facilitate information and technique sharing and problem solving among the Fellows.

Outside Consultants – Outside consultants will be invited to address the group on topics of particular concern, including: designing Common Core–aligned curriculum; meeting the needs of EL students; teaching students to revise; integrating skills instruction into a balanced literacy program; research-based strategies for effective reading/writing instruction; helping students prepare for direct writing assessments; the use of portfolios, etc.

Peer Writing and Response – Fellows will break up into small groups and spend designated afternoons working on improving their own writing.

Teacher Research – Fellows will be given time, resources (including a professional book) and support to pursue an area of special interest in the teaching of reading and/or writing which relates specifically to their classroom practice and particular student population. Fellows with like interests will collaborate on projects in teacher research groups.

Follow-Up – After the Institute concludes, Fellows will meet one full day during Fall '21 and Spring '22 to continue their training and exchange information and ideas. Fellows may also have an opportunity to conduct workshops, as Teacher/Consultants, in their districts and in other districts, as well as to teach in the Young Writers' Project. In addition, the UCI Writing Project will host a number of activities including Writing Project 2 and the annual December Conference.



APPLICATION FOR THE SUMMER INSTITUTE:

To apply to the Summer Institute, please complete the following **2 items**:

1. Google Form Contact Information

2. PDFs of the documents listed below to stonesj@uci.edu no later than **March 19, 2021**.

- Resume/teacher biography
- 1-page statement of purpose
- Two letters of recommendation
- Letter from your principal regarding 2-day release time verification

Explanation of required PDFs:

- Resume/teacher biography (if submitting a biography, focus on educational experiences).
- 1-page statement of purpose: On a separate page, please explain why you are applying to the UCI Writing Project Summer Institute. E-mail to stonesj@uci.edu.
- Two letters of recommendation: Have letters e-mailed to stonesj@uci.edu.
- 2-day release time verification: We need a letter from your district/college verifying that you will be released to attend two full day follow-up meetings – one in Fall '21 and one in the Spring '22 (Note: The verification of released time can be included in one of your letters of recommendation).

