



**Outreach Scholarship Community
Partnership Award**

In recognition of a mutually beneficial and sustained
campus–community research partnership.

**Troy W. Hicks
Toby E. Loftus
Mitchell Nobis
Janet A. Swenson
Renee Webster
Andrea L. Zellner**

The Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award is
supported by the MSU Quality Fund.



From left to right: Mitchell Nobis, Toby E. Loftus, Renee Webster, Andrea L. Zellner, Janet A. Swenson, Troy W. Hicks

Janet A. Swenson

Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, College of Arts and Letters

Community recipients:

Troy W. Hicks, *Department of English Language and Literature, Central Michigan University*

Toby E. Loftus, *Detroit Middle School*

Mitchell Nobis, *North Farmington High School*

Renee Webster, *Perry Elementary School*

Andrea L. Zellner, *Southfield–Lathrup High School*

The Red Cedar Writing Project (RCWP), Michigan State University's site of the National Writing Project, has evolved over the past 16 years not only to include an array of professional development opportunities for teachers and K–12 students across grade levels, disciplines, the state, and the nation, but also to develop and to publish research on the defining characteristics of transformative teacher networks, on protocols that scaffold the critical analysis of teaching pedagogies, and on methods of integrating multimodal literacies and digital technologies beneficially into K–12 teaching.

RCWP is directed by Janet A. Swenson, associate dean, College of Arts and Letters, with the support of codirectors Troy W. Hicks, assistant professor, Central Michigan University;

Toby E. Loftus, retired teacher, Detroit Middle School; Mitchell Nobis, teacher, North Farmington High School; Renee Webster, teacher, Perry Elementary School; and Andrea L. Zellner, business manager, RCWP, and former teacher, Southfield–Lathrup High School, as well as a 30-member teacher advisory board. Dr. Swenson, associate professor in Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, is well-known for her research on the defining characteristics of transformative teacher networks and communities, which is distributed through the National Writing Project to each of its 200 university-based sites as suggested reading.

In describing their experiences working with Dr. Swenson, teachers have noted that she works tirelessly, selflessly, and energetically as a mentor, teacher, administrator, scholar, and friend. Such tirelessness and enthusiasm have resulted in the development of a number of RCWP auxiliary projects that range from Spartan Writing Camp, which attracts more than 300 elementary school students annually, to RCWP Dine and Discuss Book Club, in which local teachers gather socially to discuss professional texts, to Teachers as Writers, a peer response group meeting for teachers who wish to continue developing as writers, to Greenrock, a residential writers camp for high school students. Annually, RCWP facilitates more than 100 programs for teachers, students, and community members.

The collaboration of Dr. Swenson and the codirectors of the Red Cedar Writing Project demonstrate that faculty and their community partners are productive in improving their communities.