

**For Immediate Release**

**August 28, 2009**

**Contact: Kim Patterson, Director**

**Mississippi State University Writing/Thinking Project**

**662-325-7777**

[kpatt@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:kpatt@colled.msstate.edu)

## **MSU Writing/Thinking Project Hosts Middle School Institute**

### *Local Teachers Go Back to School at MSU*

Mississippi State, MS – Twenty-three Mississippi teachers are participating in the Mississippi State University Writing/Thinking Project program, Middle School Institute, which began this summer and continues throughout the 2009-10 school year.

Teachers and their school districts include: Renne Haynes, Kathleen Davenport, and Sandra Hunt, Choctaw County School District; Leah Rigney and Robin Lowe, Scott County School District; Shani Earnest and Michelle Palmertree, Pontotoc County School District; Amy Grady, Renee Smith, Jacqueline Mitchell, Mary Wilson, Amy Carter, Kim Kendrick, Furlinda Travis, Tina Melton, Maria Yates, Jonas Crenshaw, and Martha Walker, Meridian School District; Bryce Yelverton, Alfred Smith, Shajuana Rhodes, and Angela Buggs, Jackson Public School District; and Pam Pickle, Hinds County School District.

Middle School Institute is an intensive program for teachers of grades 6-8, where the educators learn research-based instructional strategies and assessment practices appropriate for middle level students. The institute is led by Evelyn Clay, a National Board Certified Teacher who is a teacher consultant as well as a technology liaison with the Mississippi State University Writing/Thinking Project. Clay teaches at East Webster Elementary School in Mathiston.

Middle School Institute provides teachers with the right tools to meet the increasing demands of state assessments and No Child Left Behind legislation. The program equips teachers for rigorous, standards-based instruction, while incorporating brain research as it applies to the young adolescent, and includes motivational classroom practices.

Mississippi State University Writing/Thinking Project is a part of the National Writing Project (NWP), the premier effort to improve writing in America. NWP sites, located on nearly 200 university campuses, serve more than 135,000 educators annually. NWP continues to add new sites each year with the goal of placing the writing project within reach of every teacher in America. Through its professional development model, NWP develops the leadership, programs, and research needed for teachers to help students become successful writers and learners.

For more information about the Mississippi State University Writing/Thinking Project, or the National Writing Project, contact Kim Patterson at [kpatt@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:kpatt@colled.msstate.edu).

###