GSWP travels to D.C. to discuss importance of writing

April 25, 2015

Representatives of the Georgia Southern Writing Project, including Writing and Linguistics faculty member Amanda Hedrick, recently visited Washington, D.C., to meet with elected representatives and discuss the importance of writing in schools.

Hedrick and Glennville Middle School teacher Holly Durrence also participated in a debriefing/planning session with National Writing Project participants for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Assignments Matter work GSWP is doing with local middle and high school teachers. The grant GSWP received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is being used to bring Assignments Matter to area teachers, increasing collaboration between Georgia Southern University and area middle and high schools. The next GSWP Assignments Matter event will take place on June 3rd.

Assignments Matters makes use of Learning Design Collaborative tools to help content-area teachers incorporate formative writing assignments into their courses. These writing tasks provide students with the opportunity to produce text-based writing that emphasizes the importance of writing to learn and meets Common Core standards.

In Washington, Hedrick and Durrence also met with Writing and Linguistics alumna Lindsey Maxwell, who is currently Senator David Perdue’s Correspondence Director. Maxwell stated that the writing foundations learned while a major are used daily in her career.

The Georgia Southern Writing Project is a member site of the National Writing Project. Founded in 1974, the NWP is a network of sites anchored at colleges and universities and serving teachers across disciplines and at all levels, early childhood through university. The NWP provides professional development, develops resources, generates research, and acts on knowledge to improve the teaching of writing and learning in schools and communities. For more information about the Georgia Southern Writing Project, please contact Director June Joyner or Kathy Albertson. For information about the June 2015 Assignments Matter meeting, please contact Amanda Hedrick.

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Georgia Southern’s College of the Creative Mind. CLASS prepares its students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity, and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, nations, and world.

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