

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

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DPI-NR 2015-123

DPI announces new educational video series

Wisconsin Writes explores the writing process of various authors

MADISON —The Department of Public Instruction is filling a void in the world of educational materials thanks to a collaborative project involving DPI staff and more than a dozen authors from around Wisconsin. The video series, called “Wisconsin Writes,” features walk-throughs of the writing process by each author and a look at their typical work day.

Each author who agreed to participate appears in two types of videos. First, they demonstrate their writing process by moving forward on an actual piece they were working on. The second element, a straightforward interview, gives students advice on writing and a sense of what it’s all about. The DPI’s Marci Glaus, an English language arts education consultant, visited writers in their usual writing spaces to provide an authentic look at habits, techniques, and environments of this group that has so much to offer students. Featured writers include two New York Times Best Sellers, the state’s poet laureate, children’s authors, writers of non-fiction, fiction, and other Wisconsin-based writers.

“For our students to graduate ready for career and college — no matter what they pursue — they need writing and other literacy skills,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “I appreciate that so many of our state’s professional writers share this sentiment and were willing to show their writing process and workspace,” Evers said. “How better to learn these skills than from their fellow Wisconsinites who have built a successful career around them?”

“Wisconsin Writes” began this fall, with installments released approximately biweekly. Videos released so far feature the following authors (an example published title for each including):

- Silvia Acevedo of Greenfield, young adult fiction, “God Awful Loser”
- Molly Magestro of West Bend, non-fiction and fiction, “Assault on the Small Screen”
- Kimberly Blaeser of Burlington, poetry, Wisconsin Poet Laureate, “Goodbye to All That”
- Patrick Rothfuss of Stevens Point, fantasy, persuasive writing, New York Times Best Seller, “The Name of the Wind”

(more)

Numerous other writers from throughout the state donated their time to help students understand writing.

Most of the following writers will appear in the series between now and the end of the 2015-16 school year:

- Moy Ahmad* and Jennifer Van Haaften* of Fort Atkinson, middle grade, young adult fiction
- Ann Bausum of Janesville, non-fiction, “Sergeant Stubby”
- Nickolas Butler of Fall Creek, fiction, drama, New York Times Best Seller, “Shotgun Love Songs”
- Micah Clarke* of Verona, children’s books, young adult fiction
- Linda Godfrey of Elkhorn, non-fiction, “American Monsters”
- Patricia (P. C.) Hodgell of Oshkosh, fantasy, “The God Stalker Chronicles”
- Pernille Ripp of Oregon, educational non-fiction, “Passionate Learners”
- Karyn Saemann of Deerfield, non-fiction, children’s, journalism, “Electa Quinney”
- Tasha Schuh, Doug Michaels, and Jan Pavloski of Ellsworth, memoir, “My Last Step Backward”
- Stuart Stotts of De Forest, children’s books, lyrics, nonfiction, “Curly Lambeau”
- Jennifer Zettel of Appleton, journalism, “Appleton Post-Crescent”

The series will also include at least one student and a select number of not-yet-published authors (denoted with an * in the above list) to help make the point to young viewers that one doesn’t need to be a professional author to enjoy and value writing and the skills it sharpens.

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NOTES: The “Wisconsin Writes” series can be found online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/wisconsin-writes>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_123.pdf.