

What's New on the Web

NEW SEARCH ENGINE

In the past, searching for just the right page on NWREL's Web site of more than 22,000 documents may have seemed like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack. But now, users of the site are apt to find what they need in the first page—maybe even the first result. “With the popularity of search engines like Google, we all expect to type a word or two into a search box and get the answer,” observes NWREL's head Webmaster, Vicki Jean Beauchamp. “With our previous search engines, that wasn't happening. You'd get results ... though not necessarily what you were seeking. That's changed with the introduction of the Google Mini, a new search engine that's been adapted exclusively for NWREL's use.”

Conference Call

2006 OREGON HIGH SCHOOL INSTITUTE

June 26–27, 2006

Kingstad Center, Beaverton, OR

The hot topic of high school reform is the focus of this two-day event for Oregon educators, cosponsored by NWREL and several other organizations including the Oregon Department of Education and Employers for Education Excellence (E3)/Oregon Small Schools Alliance. Participants will gain awareness of what is happening in Oregon high schools, develop an understanding of effective school reform strategies, and commit to taking community action. The first day centers on Personalized Learning: Engaging Students. The second day's topic is Preparing Students for Success: College, Work, and Citizenship. Register online at <http://gearup.ous.edu/hsinstitute/>; the registration deadline is June 9, 2006.

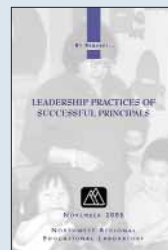
Google Mini works with any search box on NWREL's Web site. If you still have trouble finding the appropriate page, e-mail Beauchamp at webmaster@nwrel.org. Here's to more efficient searching!

BY REQUEST

While quantities last, various titles from NWREL's popular By Request series are available for sale in NWREL's Products Catalog Online (www.nwrel.org/comm/catalog/). The series addresses a wide variety of issues and concerns raised by Northwest educators during a 10-year span, including:

- *Strategies and Resources for Mainstream Teachers of English Language Learners*

- *Building Trust With Schools and Diverse Families: A Foundation for Lasting Partnerships*
- *Culturally Responsive Practices for Student Success*



- *Profiles of Progress: What Works in Northwest Title I Schools*

Each booklet contains a discussion of research and literature pertinent to the issue, a sampling of how Northwest schools are addressing the challenge, suggestions for adapting these ideas to schools, selected references, and contact information. PDF versions of all 30 booklets are free on the Web at www.nwrel.org/request/. ■

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TEAMS SUMMER INSTITUTE

July 25–27, 2006

NWREL, Portland, OR

This three-day institute will give facilitators the tools to lead professional learning teams in their own schools. The training will support schools working with structural changes like Smaller Learning Communities and interdisciplinary teaming. For further information, contact Susan Sather, 800-547-6339, ext. 645; sathers@nwrel.org. Register by June 23, 2006.

6+1 TRAIT® WRITING ASSESSMENT FOR TRAINERS INSTITUTE

July 19–21, 2006

The Resort at the Mountain, Welches, OR

In this three-day advanced training, educators who are experienced users of the 6+1 TRAIT model will learn how to train others in its use. Previous training in the model is required. The institute will include a review of writing traits and

strategies, lesson design and training considerations, and workshop planning.

6+1 TRAIT® WRITING ASSESSMENT: INTRODUCTORY INSTITUTE

October 11–13, 2006

Surfsand Resort, Cannon Beach, OR

This workshop features practical, ready-to-use lessons and strategies that help students identify quality in writing, manage their own writing process, practice effective revision and editing, and become confident writers. The final day will focus on beginning (K–3) writers. Teachers of grades 6–12 may opt to attend only the first two days.

For information on 6+1 TRAIT Writing events, contact Sharon Northern at 800-547-6339, ext. 572, or e-mail northers@nwrel.org. More information can be found at www.nwrel.org/assessment/trainings.php ■