

## Conference Call

Visit NWREL's online calendar of events at [www.nwrel.org/events/](http://www.nwrel.org/events/) for content and registration information on upcoming events.

### NORTHWEST SUMMER INSTITUTES BUILD MASTERY IN MATHEMATICS

NWREL's Center for Classroom Teaching and Learning is presenting Mathematics Summer Institutes that will provide professional development for teachers of grades K–2 and 3–5.

The five-day institutes for each grade span are scheduled concurrently in five locales spanning the Northwest region. The 2007 dates are:

- Anchorage, AK: June 11–15
- Billings, MT: July 9–13
- Eugene, OR: July 23–27
- Boise, ID: August 6–10
- Spokane, WA: August 13–17

Teachers of grades K–2 will expand their knowledge of number sense and algebraic reasoning. Participants will leave with a solid understanding of what number sense and algebraic reasoning is; how children develop it; and what

instructional strategies help K–2 students grasp these foundational concepts.

Teachers of grades 3–5 will increase their comprehension of the integration of arithmetic and algebra in the elementary classroom. Topics such as using relational thinking, understanding equality, and representing conjectures will be covered. Contact Cathy Clark Thomas, 800-547-6339, ext. 662; [clarkc@nwrel.org](mailto:clarkc@nwrel.org).

### 6+1 TRAIT® WRITING MODEL: INTRODUCTORY AND TRAINERS INSTITUTES

Whether you want to learn the basics or you're interested in becoming a trainer in NWREL's internationally acclaimed writing instruction and assessment model, there's a workshop happening soon. The 6+1 Trait Writing model is a powerful framework developed to help teachers use a common language to refer to characteristics of writing and to create a common vision of what good writing looks like. Contact Sharon Northern, 800-547-6339, ext. 572; [northers@nwrel.org](mailto:northers@nwrel.org).

### 6+1 Trait Writing Model for Trainers Institute

July 18–20, 2007

The Resort at the Mountain, Welches, OR  
 6+1 Trait Writing Assessment: Introductory Institute

- October 9–12, 2007  
 Surfsand Resort, Cannon Beach, OR
- December 11–14, 2007  
 NWREL, Portland, OR

### INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH- AND EDUCATION-FOCUSED VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The LEARNS partnership provides training and technical assistance to volunteer programs on tutoring, mentoring, literacy, and out-of-school time. Attend the Corporation for National and Community Service/LEARNS institute September 18–19, 2007 in Portland, Oregon, to build skills and professional networks with others who develop programs and/or supervise members and volunteers to meet the needs of children and youth. ■

## What's New on the Web

The new and improved NWREL Web site, [www.nwrel.org](http://www.nwrel.org), made its debut in March. News about the latest events, products, and services—as well as articles of interest to Northwest educators—is now front and center and updated frequently. “With more than 20,000 pages of information being viewed by more than 400,000 visitors each month, the old design had outlived its usefulness,” explained NWREL Webmaster, Vicki Jean Beauchamp. “The new design presents the wealth of information in a more user-friendly, dynamic way.”

As befits a research and development organization, the redesign went through nearly a year's worth of rigorous data collection, development, and testing. A working group of NWREL Web developers initiated the process, which included online surveys of current site users, interviews with staff, input from the executive cabinet, and research into the latest Web technology. The group also utilized an independent consultant to conceptually bridge the gap between the old and new sites. Once it had passed the test by getting overwhelmingly positive remarks from a large group of both internal and

external test users, the site was ready to launch. According to NWREL's Marketing and Outreach Services Director, Caridan Craig, “The primary goals in redesigning the Web site were to create a more visually appealing and structured set of core pages and to put an increased emphasis on current events, projects, and services. The new site achieves both.”

Visitors are encouraged to explore the site at their leisure and bookmark pages of particular interest. Send questions or comments to the appropriate contact listed at [www.nwrel.org/comm/contact.php](http://www.nwrel.org/comm/contact.php). ■