

Dear Literacy Leaders,

Please find attached a brochure describing the new *Massachusetts New Literacies Institute*. As you will see, this is a wonderful professional development opportunity that the Department is offering to help teachers help their students develop the reading/writing skills needed to successfully use the Internet and other current technologies. One hundred (100) educators from 25 schools/districts from all regions of the state will be selected to participate in this exciting event.

In preparation, we are currently in the process of selecting 10 MA Teacher Leaders to assist Dr. Don Leu's team of national experts during the June Institute. In addition to working with him and his team in Cambridge from June 20-25, these 10 MA Teacher Leaders will assist the educational collaborative that will be helping the Department run this institute conduct 3 follow-up days during the 2010-2011 school year. Dates for these follow-up days are yet to be determined. It is our hope that the 10 Massachusetts educators selected to be the Institute's MA Teacher Leaders will become state "leaders" on this topic of "New Literacies" and may, in future years, help to conduct similar institutes.

We would appreciate it if you could share the attached brochure with teachers of grades 4-12 in your district. If anyone in your district is interested in being considered for the position of MA Teacher Leader, please ask him/her to send an email to Laurie Slobody ([lslobody@doe.mass.edu](mailto:lslobody@doe.mass.edu)) by **May 14th** expressing interest. She will then share that information with the group that is responsible for selecting the 10 MA Teacher Leaders.

The following is a brief description of the type of person we are hoping to include:

MA Teacher Leader for *New Literacies Institute*:

The Department is seeking Massachusetts educators (e.g., classroom teachers, library media specialists, technology support teachers, higher education professionals, etc.) who are experienced at integrating a range of Internet technologies into classrooms for literacy and learning. They should possess good leadership skills and have at least 3 years teaching experience in grades 4-12. At the June Institute, their role will be to work with one member of the team of 11 national New Literacies experts. Each MA Teacher Leaders will "shadow" one of these institute leaders, jointly lead small group sessions, support their assigned group of teachers in developing curriculum projects, participate in a panel discussion, and provide general support to ensure the success of the institute. The eleven national institute leaders will take responsibility for providing the materials, structure, and content for each day's session with the 10 MA Teacher Leaders participating in the final planning.

Please note that an honorarium will be provided to each MA Teacher Leader, as well as hotel and meal expenses. Each person must be available to participate on Sunday evening (June 20 from 5:00-7:00) and on Monday-Thursday (June 21-24 from 9:00-5:00) and on Friday (June 25 from 9:00-3:00).

Many thanks for sharing this opportunity with the rest of your MRA Board colleagues. We hope that many people will be interested!

Best regards,

Joan

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