Stephen Tchudi is professor of English at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he teaches and writes in the composition and rhetoric program. He is co-director of “Reading and Writing in the West,” a summer institute for teachers, and is coordinator of UNR's University Seminar program, which offers interdisciplinary experiences for first-year students. He previously taught at Michigan State University, where he received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1990.

He is the author of some forty books for the general public, teachers, and young adult readers. Among his recent books are The Interdisciplinary Teacher’s Handbook (with Stephen Lafer); The New Literacy (with Paul Morris); and Change in the American West: Perspectives from the Humanities. His young adult books include three novels, The Valedictorian, The Burg-O-Rama Man, and The Green Machine and the Frog Crusade (published in French as La Croisade des Grenouilles). His most recent nonfiction book for young adults is Lock & Key: The Secrets of Locking Things Up, In, and Out.

He is a past president of the National Council of Teachers of English and former editor of English Journal, and a past president of the Nevada State Council of Teachers of English and the current editor of their newsletter Silver Sage.

The Committee on Alternatives to Grading Student Writing was established in 1994 by a decision of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Teachers of English. Its charge was to study alternatives for evaluation of student writing in ways sensitive to the needs of students as well as institutions; to organize the results of the study through manuscripts that help teachers understand alternatives to grading; and to develop these manuscripts into a book to be proposed to the NCTE Editorial Board. Members of the committee were Stephen Tchudi (Chair), University of Nevada, Reno; Lynda Radican (Associate Chair), California State University–Sacramento; Robert Baroz, Ripton, Vermont; Nick Carbone, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Mary Beth Cody, University of Nevada, Reno; Marilyn Cooper, Michigan Technological University, Houghton; Alice Cross, Horace Greeley High School, Chappaqua, New York; Dallas Davies, Fremont High School, Sunnyvale, California; Carol Dietrich, DeVry Institute of Technology, Columbus, Ohio; Pamela Childers, The McCallie School, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Elizabeth Hodges, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; Gwendolyn Jones, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama; Jean Ketter, Grinnell College, Iowa; Immaculate Kizza, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; Terri LeClercq, University of Texas Law School, Austin; Marie Wilson Nelson, National Louis University, Tampa, Florida; and Joe Strzepek, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.