

NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL TESTING NETWORK IN WRITING

A Project of The City University of New York and The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

The National Testing Network in Writing now has more than 2,300 member institutions in four different countries, and our activities span the world. We continue to facilitate the exchange of information about writing assessment and evaluation among teachers, administrators, researchers, and test developers; and NTNW consultants are involved in a variety of assessment projects. Our recent book of essays, *Writing Assessment: Issues and Strategies*, includes chapters by thirteen distinguished NTNW members.

This edition of *Notes* continues the tradition of publishing abstracts from the Annual NTNW Conference on Writing Assessment. The Fourth Annual Conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 16-18, 1986, and generated much controversy and debate. The conference, co-sponsored by Cuyahoga Community College, was the first to feature hands-on workshops on computer applications in writing assessment.

The abstracts of the conference sessions are grouped according to common themes. The first three are summaries of focus groups featuring three renowned writing evaluation experts: Edward

White, Peter Elbow, and Stephen Krashen. The next set of four abstracts explores theories and models of testing. Then follows a set of six abstracts summarizing specific problems and solutions in writing assessment. The final four examine writing assessment across the grades and across the curriculum.

The centerfold of this issue provides information about the Fifth Annual Conference, which will take place April 5-7, 1987, at Bally's Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The conference will be co-sponsored by The New Jersey Department of Higher Education, NTNW, and The City University of New York. The focus of the conference is Future Directions in Writing Assessment. (Note that the conference will begin on a Sunday evening this time, rather than on our usual Wednesday.)

The inside back cover of this issue carries an announcement of interest to most of you: the publication of four new books and monographs on writing assessment by NTNW members. If you are writing a book that might interest NTNW members, please send us information for the next issue of *Notes*.

See you in Atlantic City in April. ■

Karen L. Greenberg
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Editors

We would like to thank the many people who graciously contributed their time and energy to make this edition of *Notes* a reality. First, we must thank Mary Lou Conlin and Anne Bourjailly of Cuyahoga Community College for making last year's conference such a success. We are also grateful to all of the Recorders whose summary reports make up the bulk of this issue. Finally, we thank Tulin Duda, whose fine hand at copyediting is evident throughout, Mary Carney for her efficient and cheerful attention to the many details of production, and last but not least, Barbara Gonzales, Director of the Instructional Resource Center, for her ongoing support of NTNW's activities, including the production of this edition of *Notes*.



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