



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilkes University's Bonnie Culver Elected President of AWP's National Board of Trustees

Fairfax, VA, March 14, 2014 — AWP is pleased to announce the election of Bonnie Culver as president of the organization's board of trustees. Playwright, screenwriter, and novelist Bonnie Culver is the co-founder and director of the Wilkes University Low Residency Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. She is an associate professor of English at Wilkes, where she has served in various capacities over the past twenty years: faculty member, college dean, and program director. She has written over twenty plays, many of which have been produced by community, regional, and university theatres, and equity companies from New York to Los Angeles. She has received individual and institutional grants and awards from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and the Maslow Foundation, among others. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild, the president of the James Jones Society, and an Advisory Board member of the Norman Mailer Society and Etruscan Press. Dr. Culver has served on AWP's Board of Trustees since 2010.

"Both individual writers and creative writing programs value AWP's commitment to supporting and sustaining a national dialogue about creative writing and arts education as evidenced by the tremendous growth in membership and conference attendance in the last decade" Culver said. "The commitment and talent of the AWP staff, especially David Fenza as the executive director, and the dedication and professionalism of the Board members make this an easy honor to accept. I am delighted to be a part of this continued conversation."

David Fenza, executive director of AWP, noted "Bonnie is an accomplished writer, teacher, and administrator, who has worked as an excellent advocate for the writers and teachers of our member programs—for those who also wear many hats. The staff and I look forward to working with her."

AWP hosts its Annual Conference & Bookfair in a different city of North America each year to celebrate the authors, teachers, writing programs, literary centers, and independent publishers of that region. The conference features readings, lectures, panel discussions, and forums, as well as book signings, receptions, dances, and informal gatherings. The 2014 conference in Seattle attracted over 13,000 attendees and featured 700 bookfair exhibitors from throughout the U.S., Canada, Asia, and the U.K. AWP's gathering has become the largest literary conference in North America.

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The mission of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs is to foster literary achievement, to advance the art of writing as essential to a good education, and to serve the makers, teachers, students, and readers of contemporary writing. Founded in 1967, AWP supports nearly 50,000 writers, over 500 college and university creative writing programs, and 100 writers' conferences and centers.