



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Launches Writer to Writer Mentorship Program, Free to Members

AWP Members serve as Mentors and Mentees for Program, which Begins Full Sessions in Spring 2015

Fairfax, VA, September 18 — The Association for Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) has announced the launch of its mentorship program, Writer to Writer. The free program, which pairs new and established writers, is open to all AWP members. Writers from underserved populations, including those who have never been associated with an MFA program and those from traditionally underrepresented regions, backgrounds, and cultures are encouraged to apply.

“There is such a wealth of experience and knowledge in our membership, and from the care put into the many mentor applications we received, it’s clear there is a deep desire for writers to give back,” said Diane Zinna, AWP’s Director of Membership. “People seem to be coming forward to serve because they themselves had a mentor that helped them earlier in their careers—or felt things could have gone differently for them if they had.”

Writer to Writer provides participants with loosely structured modules over a three-month time span. Pairs are encouraged use the modules as a guide, and to continue the relationship beyond the formal session. Mentors are not paid. Currently in its pilot session, Writer to Writer has received positive feedback from its mentor and mentee pairs.

“As the mother of a young child, and as someone firmly entrenched in working life, I have been searching for a way to balance my family’s needs with my desire to pursue writing on a more serious level,” said Jennifer Savran Kelly, who was paired with the novelist Amy Wallen. “This program is offering me an opportunity to do that through an even more rewarding and personal process than I had imagined.”

Mentors in the pilot program have emphasized the value in giving back to the literary community. Mentor Janet Sylvester said, “It’s a privilege to bring years of writing and publishing experience to a younger writer who is eager to deepen her craft and understanding of the American scene. To work together outside the academy brings a new kind of energy to us both.”

AWP has already received excellent applications for Writer to Writer’s spring session, which will begin in February. To learn more about Writer to Writer, or to apply for the spring session, visit our [webpage](#).

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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, almost 600 college and university creative writing programs, and 130 writers' conferences and centers.