

NOTES from the

NATIONAL TESTING NETWORK IN WRITING

The City University of New York, 535 East 80th Street, New York, New York 10021

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

NOTES is published by the Instructional Resource Center

NOTES, Phase III

The National Testing Network In Writing, established in 1981 to encourage and facilitate the exchange of information about writing assessment among administrators, teachers, and test developers, is now in its third and final year. The first two editions of *Notes from the NTNW* called upon recognized experts in writing assessment to define the issues and problems in testing writing and to provide practical advice about developing and administering assessment programs. The topics discussed in these issues elicited many lively responses, and these responses were used to plan the first NTNW national conference on "Writing Assessment in the 80's" held in New York City last March. Many of the experts who wrote *Notes* articles attended the conference, and several of them served as Facilitators for the small group workshops. At these sessions, they expanded upon their ideas and asked conferees to present their problems, questions, and solutions. This issue of *Notes* presents abstracts from these workshops, and it includes a list of Conference participants' names and addresses so that you can contact them directly for more information.

The issue follows the conference schedule. It begins with the opening remarks of Joseph S. Murphy, Chancellor of The City University of New York, who welcomed everyone to the conference and discussed its importance. Next is the keynote address of Kenneth B. Clark who spoke about some of the purposes for testing writing and who urged us to remember that tests of writing are inherently tests of social and cultural interaction.

Following the plenary were two concurrent panel discussions. The panel on "Developing Tests in Large Sys-

tems" was chaired by Dean Marie Jean Lederman of CUNY's Office of Academic Affairs, and the panelists were James L. Hill of Albany State College in Georgia and Edward M. White of California State University. The panel on "Developing Tests on Individual Campuses" was chaired by Daniel Fader of the University of Michigan, and the panelists were Charles Switzer of Eastern Illinois University and Barbara Weaver of Anderson College.

The abstracts of the workshops follow the reports of these panel discussions. Most of these abstracts were recorded and reported by writing specialists at the seventeen undergraduate CUNY colleges. Some of the recorders are reading specialists at CUNY and some come from other colleges. The issue ends with the speeches made at the conference's closing luncheon. The Honorable Blanche Bernstein, member of the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York, spoke about improving students' writing and thinking skills. And the closing speech by Andrea A. Lunsford of the University of British Columbia focused on the history and the future directions of writing assessment.

One immediate future direction was the need for another national conference on writing assessment in a different region of the country. Plans for the Second Annual Conference on Writing Assessment, to be held in Florida in March 1984, are underway. The centerfold of this issue includes a discussion of the conference and the program.

Karen L. Greenberg
Virginia B. Slaughter