



High School Teacher Creates Nonprofit To Encourage Hidden Young Writers

Mission is to embolden hidden young writers through education, recognition, and publication

NOBLE, OK (May 28, 2017) -- While some teachers are looking forward to relaxing for a few days during the summer, one Oklahoma high school teacher instead started a nonprofit seeking to help teachers identify hidden young writers in their classrooms.

The new nonprofit, Invisible Young Voices, Inc. (IYV) will provide a blueprint for both new and veteran teachers who want to unlock the stories hidden in their students. The organization will host a writing contest with the first entries being accepted in January 2018 and an awards ceremony in late April. Winning student works will also be published in an anthology and on the nonprofit's website: InvisibleYoungVoices.com.

"Contrary to the beliefs of a certain Common Core leader, we do care what students have to say," said Michelle Waters, founder and president of IYV. "Student writers who have grown up in this era of accountability-through-state-testing have not been encouraged to develop their talents in class or through student publications. Our mission is to help teachers reconnect with these young writers, help those students find their voices, and give student writers the space they need to be heard."

Waters stated that her organization will focus on working with teachers in four Oklahoma City metro area schools during its first year, though any Oklahoma teachers are welcome to submit student works to the contest and attend the awards ceremony. IYV will provide affordable memberships to teachers who will receive a book providing tips on how to teach middle and high school writers. Waters is also planning professional development workshops for teachers over the summer and on weekends, and future student summer workshops.

"In the future, we'd love to offer cash or scholarship awards to our winning writers," Waters said. "It's important that students see the immediate value in what they write and are rewarded for their bravery and hard work in sharing their stories."

Waters is an Oklahoma Writing Project Teacher Consultant and is a National Board Certified Teacher candidate with six years experience teaching in Oklahoma middle and high school classrooms. She has taught at both urban and rural schools.

About Invisible Young Voices, Inc.

Invisible Young Voices, Inc. is an Oklahoma-based non profit organization dedicating to helping teachers discover, recognize, and provide publication opportunities to hidden young writers in their classrooms. IYV provides teachers with curriculum, strategies, and tools they need to unlock student voices, including an annual Young Voices Writing Contest to showcase the student talent. IYV collaborates with educators to embolden hidden young writers, which will revitalize student lives, schools, and communities.

Media Contact

Michelle Waters

Invisible Young Voices, Inc.

michelle.waters@invisibleyoungvoices.com

(405) 30WRITE