WRITING THE WORLD: A Spring Conference for Elementary and Secondary Teachers and the Community
April 23, 2016 at SUNY New Paltz

8:30 - 9:00 am REGISTRATION: Coykendall Science Building Auditorium, SUNY New Paltz
9:00 - 10:30 am OPENING SESSION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS:

JUXTAPOSITION: Writing that Merges Public Observation and Private Life
Dwayne Betts, Keynote Speaker
Whether in the composition or revision process, a powerful choice that writers make is to strategically bring public observation and private musings together in their writing. In his keynote, writer Dwayne Betts will guide us in writing and reading with this lens. He will also read from and sign copies of his published works.

Poet, teacher, social justice advocate, and lawyer, Reginald Dwayne Betts is the author of the 2015 poetry collection, Bastard of the Reagan Era. His memoir, A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison, was awarded the 2010 NAACP Image Award for nonfiction.

10:30 am – 11:00 am BOOK SIGNING

11:00 am - 12:30 pm BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS (Choose one):

LETTERS TO THE NEXT PRESIDENT 2.0: Exploring Authentic Civic Participation through Digital Media Creation
Steve Masson, Hudson Valley Writing Project
By examining issue-oriented videos written and produced by high school students, we will explore issues surrounding research, argument, voice, and audience, and then examine resources for implementing similar learning opportunities in conjunction with the National Writing Project's "Letters to the Next President 2.0" campaign. (Grades 6-16)

ALL IN THE SAME BOAT: Moving Beyond the Literal to the Figurative
Rebecca Quackenbush, Hudson Valley Writing Project
As educators, we go “out on a limb” every day to try to bring our students to a higher understanding of what we are trying to teach them. In this workshop, we will use poetry as a means for building recognition and knowledge of idiomatic language. (Grades K-12)

DEVELOPING REASONED ARGUMENTS: Helping Secondary Students Write from Sources
Christine Dawson, Carol Forman-Pemberton, Nancy Gort, Amy Salamone, Capital District Writing Project
We will introduce interactive strategies developed by the National Writing Project’s College-Ready Writers Program team that help students to evaluate evidence on a topic and link evidence to their claims in purposeful ways—thus bridging the personal and public in their thinking and their writing. (Grades 6-12)

“WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR IDEAS?”: Releasing Students from Writer’s Block
Joe Bellacero & Alison Koffler-Wise, New York City Writing Project
Believe it or not, finding writing topics can be fun. We will write and explore 2 interactive techniques - memory chain and illustrated timeline - that help students gather ideas suitable for personal narrative, memoir writing, poetry, and other genres. (Grades 3-12)

No pre-registration is necessary to attend, but teachers may register on MyLearningPlan at the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center website: www.mhtc.dcboces.org.