

## Introduction

The first-ever Colorado Core Knowledge Summer Unit Writing Institute was held at the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado, during the week of June 21-25, 1999. Fifty-six teachers and administrators participated, representing thirteen schools from Denver and surrounding cities, as well as Boulder, Colorado Springs, Roggen, Naturita (these teachers and administrators traveled seven hours to participate!), Parker, and Canon City. Twenty-six units were written for Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, as well as for PE and Music. A great deal of talent and enthusiasm was gathered during this week and the units produced exemplify this!

The teachers and administrators spent the first day learning how to write a Core Knowledge unit and writing Concept Objectives for their unit. The second day was spent identifying resources and researching the content. We owe a great deal of thanks to the University of Denver library, which was available for the participants to use. The next two days were devoted to developing daily lesson plans and assessments. On Friday the finishing touches were put on each unit to prepare them for publication. All of the units will be shared with every Core Knowledge school in Colorado.

A very special thank you goes out to Dean Kern, Director of Elbert County Charter School, for initiating and coordinating this event. Without his hard work this week would never have happened. Thanks also go out to Jim Griffin and Brenda Souci, of the Colorado League of Charter Schools, for their help in preparing for and organizing this event.

This week would not have been possible if not for the help and expertise provided by the Core Knowledge consultants who devoted a week of their summer vacations to work with our teachers and administrators. Their knowledge and support helped guide the participants to developing strong units and their perseverance helped to make the final products possible by the end of the week.

Ken Cronheim	Joella Good Elementary	Hollywood, Florida
Dr. Bruce Frazee	Trinity University	San Antonio, TX
Lorraine Griffith	West Buncombe Elementary	Ashville, North Carolina
Shelley McCollister	Vienna Elementary School	Vienna, Maryland
Elaine Moritz	SBMI Ed Serve	Denver, Colorado
Jere Percy	Jefferson Academy	Broomfield, Colorado

We also wish to express our deep gratitude to B.J. Steinbrook and the Challenge Foundation for making this professional development opportunity possible for the teachers and administrators of Colorado. The units developed during this week will benefit countless teachers and students and have a positive impact on teaching and learning for years to come!

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