

David Haynes

Biographical Information

David Haynes is the author of six novels for adults and five books for younger readers. He is an Associate Professor of English at Southern Methodist University where he directs the creative writing program. He also teaches regularly in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writer and has taught writing in the MFA Programs at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Hamline University, at the Writer's Center in Bethesda, MD, and at the Writers' Garret in Dallas. He has received a fellowship from the Minnesota State Arts Board, and several of his short stories have been read and recorded for the National Public Radio series "Selected Shorts." His sixth and most recent novel is *The Full Matilda*. He is also the author of a series for children called "The West Seventh Wildcats." David spent fifteen years as a teacher in urban schools, mostly teaching middle grades in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He worked on numerous school reform efforts, including developing the influential Saturn School of Tomorrow, where he served as Associate Teacher for Humanities. He has been involved in the work of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, coordinating efforts of the nation's finest educators to develop standards in the fields of social studies, vocational education, early childhood education and for teachers of students whose first language is not English.

Campaign Statement

I came into this career through the side door, signing up for community-based writing courses and roughing out stories after a day in the classroom full of 12-year olds; publishing my first novel while still working full time as a teacher. I've had the opportunity to teach and mentor writers in almost every context where that can be done, and through that experience I've come to appreciate the challenges for writers working outside of academia. AWP supports these writers in a range of ways, including providing a range of services, but perhaps most importantly by providing connection to a community of like-minded individuals. In my role as a representative for individual members my goal would be to assure that AWP continue to find ways to support all members of its community and to be a voice for all writers at the table where decisions are made.

The upcoming years will be challenging ones for AWP, particularly as it considers how to best respond to various assaults on member institutions and the contraction of opportunities for writers in terms of employment and publishing. I tend to be an optimist about these things. I bring to AWP thirty years of experience working with not-for-profit organizations in the arts and in education, either on boards of directors or as staff to those boards, and I have watched organizations successfully navigate the inevitable upturns and downturns in the economy. I look forward to being at the AWP table and offering whatever support I can to their important efforts to nurture a literary community.