Applications are invited for the 2015 Poetry Institute for K-12 Educators, the product of a unique collaboration between Boston University School of Education and the Favorite Poem Project, Boston University professor Robert Pinsky’s main undertaking during his three years as United States Poet Laureate. For the past 13 summers, the Institute has provided educators from across the US and abroad with a professional development experience based on the principles of the Favorite Poem Project. In conception, the project, with its videos at www.favoritepoem.org and several popular anthologies, celebrates and documents poetry’s place in American culture. The Institute is devoted to improving poetry’s place in American classrooms.

The Institute encourages conversations among teachers about past successes, challenges, and insights in bringing poetry to students in their various communities. Teachers work in groups throughout the week to develop lessons inspired by FPP materials and by the presenters, award-winning American poets Robert Pinsky, Maggie Dietz, Louise Glück, Gail Mazur, and Carl Phillips. The Institute offers participants a fresh, energizing approach to poems, invaluable materials for teaching, and refreshed ways to invigorate their instructional habits and practices. The central idea is that experience of the poem should precede analysis.

The responses of past participants provide a testament to the Institute’s transformative potential in their lives as teachers and lovers of poetry.

*What a lovely balance of being exposed to masters of the craft and having time to reflect with colleagues. A nice mix of pedagogy and content. I felt so fortunate to be in the presence of the poets, like a hungry new student (it made me want to go BACK to school!!). The focus on experiencing poems, not dissecting, analyzing, and assessing was so refreshing. I loved that the process of reading, writing, living, feeling poetry was the purpose.*

--Stephani Lourie, Anderson School, Bozeman, MT

*The poetry institute was a reaffirmation of why I love poetry as well as a reminder of why I became a teacher. I aim to spark the same kind of love for poetry in others. I believe this week-long institute has given me the tools to do just that!*  

--Louisa Levine, Campbell High School, North Hollywood, CA

The application is posted on the Favorite Poem Project website: [www.favoritepoem.org](http://www.favoritepoem.org). Applications are due by July 6, 2015. Housing and parking are available at reasonable rates.