Program Opens Doors to Publishing Careers
by Janette Ballard

Students come from far and wide to attend the four-week, full-time Denver Publishing Institute (DPI) each summer. Dana Eger, from Chandler, AZ, heard about the Institute from her cousin who works for a publisher in Boston. Eger believes that the intensive course, as well as networking opportunities, will help launch her own career in the publishing industry.

Eger graduated in May from Northern Arizona University with an English degree. As an undergrad, she interned for six weeks in the marketing department at Candlewick Press, a children’s book publishing company.

"It was a truly rewarding experience that resulted in my desire to work in publishing," she said.

Through DPI, Eger most enjoys the editing workshops where she has learned the process of editing and has practiced line editing portions of manuscripts—looking for grammar, content and usage mistakes line by line. “Though it has been challenging, it has also been such a great learning experience to prepare us for working in the industry,” she said.

And it helps to have an English degree.

“My English degree has helped me to become a better writer, which has benefited me at DPI,” said Eger. “I think it’s important to understand what good writing is in order to successfully edit manuscripts and to express your opinions in the business.”

The Denver Publishing Institute offers a solid educational foundation for those interested in careers in book publishing. It’s taught by industry professionals who work at trade, university, textbook and small independent publishers throughout the country as well as in New York. Graduates earn a certificate or graduate-level credit, and go on to publishing careers around the country and the world.

“As of right now I would most like to work in editorial—editing trade books at a large publishing house or an independent press—but I am also interested in marketing,” said Eger. “After learning more about publishing children’s books, though, I’ve realized it’s also an area I’m interested in working as an editor.”

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