



7 December 2006

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION RELEASES **LANDMARK REPORT ON EVALUATING** **SCHOLARSHIP FOR TENURE**

7 December 2006: Today the Modern Language Association released a groundbreaking report on expectations for the tenure and promotion in higher education. For the past eighteen months, the MLA Task Force on Evaluating Scholarship for Tenure and Promotion has been examining current standards and emerging trends in requirements for tenure and promotion in English and foreign language departments in colleges and universities throughout the United States. The report released today is based on a survey of more than 1,300 departments at institutions across the nation and includes 20 major recommendations for change.

Of the report, MLA Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal said, “This is a forward-looking effort that will have a significant impact on the higher education community. The Task Force conscientiously reviewed the accuracy of the data and the integrity of the recommendations, and we believe that our report has the potential to transform the way scholarship is evaluated in the academy.”

Highlights of the recommendations are:

- Departments and institutions should practice and promote transparency throughout the tenuring process.
- Departments and institutions should calibrate expectations for achieving tenure and promotion with institutional values, mission, and practice.
- The profession as a whole should develop a more capacious conception of scholarship by rethinking the dominance of the monograph, promoting the scholarly essay, establishing multiple pathways to tenure, and using scholarly portfolios.
- Departments and institutions should recognize the legitimacy of scholarship produced in new media, whether by individuals or in collaboration, and create procedures for evaluating these forms of scholarship.
- Departments and institutions should facilitate collaboration among scholars and evaluate it fairly.

The full report is available at the association's Web site (www.mla.org).

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ABOUT THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

The Modern Language Association is a not-for-profit association of 30,000 teachers, students, and scholars in 100 countries. Founded in 1883 to promote the study and teaching of languages and literatures, it sets standards for work in the field and provides its members with opportunities to share their research findings and to discuss emerging trends in higher education. The association's publishing program, one of the finest in the humanities, includes the *MLA Handbook* and the *MLA International Bibliography*, the most comprehensive bibliography in the world for language and literature scholarship. A leader in the national higher education and humanities communities, the association engages in critical debates on matters of public policy and advocates for the crucial importance of language learning in an increasingly global community. This year's annual MLA Convention will be held in Philadelphia on 27-30 December.