



## **For Immediate Release**

Friday, December 8, 2023

### **Media Contact:**

Ryan Jarvi  
Director of Communication  
Northwest Education Services  
231.922.6242 | [rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org](mailto:rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org)

## **North Ed Career Tech Writers Studio Students Interview Guest Author Nita Prose**

*Author of ‘The Maid’ Shares Strategies With Budding Young Writers*

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** – Through an ongoing community partnership, Northwest Education Services (North Ed) has welcomed featured guests from the National Writers Series to its Career Tech campus over the years to engage students in meaningful conversations and to learn from accomplished writers.

Nita Prose, a No. 1 New York Times bestseller for her first novel “The Maid”, spent Wednesday morning answering questions and sharing writing tips with students from the North Ed Career Tech Writers Studio before stepping onto the stage at the City Opera House in Traverse City as this month’s visiting author with the National Writers Series.

In a conversation with Prose, the inquiring young writers asked: How did you choose a genre for your story? How do you find the motivation and inspiration to write? How do you get into character as you write? When you find yourself stuck in a plot hole, how do you pull yourself out?

Now promoting her latest novel “The Mystery Guest”, Prose welcomed the opportunity to explain the methods of her practice as she recalled the peaks and valleys of writing and publishing her novels.

“To develop the muscle of a writer, one must give themselves the liberty to sit down at a computer, imagine the setting, the character and just give it a try,” she said. “Read voraciously, all forms of literature for inspiration, and then ask yourself questions. What is my point? What does the character want? What genre am I in?”

Prose’s choice of genres, a unique mix of murder mystery infused with the spirit of hope, suggests a mismatched style of writing defined as feel-good fiction or UpLit (uplifting literature), that combines a hopeful, optimistic tone with a subject that dances with darkness or loss in the story. Through a process she defines as “Frankensteining,” she expressed the importance of understanding the rules for each genre before breaking the rules or blending genres and inventing a new style.

“For me, murder mystery is not really about solving a crime. It is the absence of a character that creates a sense of presence, making the mystery much more fascinating than any whodunit,” Prose said. “The character’s essence can speak to us and provide guidance even when they’re not there, and that to me is the biggest mystery of all.”

Creative writing is a challenge, and when she gets stuck – such as discovering one great idea that leads nowhere – Prose describes it as “unraveling a whole bunch of fabric to find the flaw and a solution.” A plot hole is one such roadblock where Prose calls for the writer to lean on imagination and reinvention, when it might take a turn of events to devise a new circumstance or a new character that provides a solution to get the story back on track.

“Writing is messy so just write and rewrite,” Prose acknowledged. “Every writer has doubts and a fear of exposing themselves to the world. This work is close to the bone. It just means you are right on track.”

The Career Tech Writers Studio is an intensive program for high school juniors and seniors who love to write. It covers several creative genres, professional writing, journalism and audio production. Students work in a collaborative and creative atmosphere to explore and develop writing skills which can be used in almost any field. Students can earn college credit. Visiting authors, relevant projects and publication opportunities enhance the program. For more information on this and other Career Tech programs, visit the [North Ed Career Tech website](#).

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**Suggested Photo Caption:** Author Nita Prose talks with students in the Writers Studio program at Northwest Education Services Career Tech in Traverse City on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

