

2016 CWCA CONFERENCE, CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Energizing (Writing Centre) Communities

1. CONVENTION THEME:

In their essay, “Some Millennial Thoughts about the Future of Writing Centres,” Lisa Ede and Andrea Lunsford describe the possibility inherent in the idea of a Centre: “Centers create spaces for the kind of work that needs to be done in higher education, work that is difficult or impossible to do within traditional disciplinary frameworks ... At their best, they encourage highly productive forms of collaboration” (*Writing Center Journal* 20.2, 33).

Fifteen years later, our malleable writing centres (sometimes under different names) continue to innovate. In the creation of and collaboration with communities of all kinds--within and beyond departmental/institutional borders--in the face of sometimes daunting challenges that cause us to re-examine our work, mandates, and vision, the work of writing centres expands and is constantly redefined.

The Canadian Writing Centres Association invites writing centre practitioners to consider how they build and energize communities--within their own centres, institutions, cities, or within larger regional, national, and international contexts--by encouraging these “highly productive forms of collaboration.”

Possible topics might include:

- how writing centres create communities for students: those who use the Writing Centre and, in some centres, those who work there;
- how writing centres create supports for specific writing communities: undergraduate, graduate, mature students, alumni, multilingual students, liberal arts, business, health, sciences, etc.
- how writing centres work to build and grow e-communities and/or online writing support;
- how writing centres energize research and teaching among faculty communities;
- how writing support is offered as part of centres with broader student support mandates (language centres, learning centres, learning commons, academic success centres, research centres, recruitment, etc.);
- how writing centres build partnerships and/or joint programming with other university programs or offices;
- how writing centres work with regional, national and international writing centre and student centre associations to build and mobilize knowledge;
- how writing centres collaborate with one another to develop programs, services, training, and research;
- how writing centres engage with external (off-campus) communities, e.g., NGO academic support groups, communities service groups, high schools, academic volunteer groups.

We invite proposals from tutors, instructors, administrators, and others interested in the teaching and tutoring of writing. Proposals should address some aspect of the theme of “Energizing (Writing Centre) Communities,” and should be organized for one of the following formats:

- 30-minute practice- or research-oriented session: A session that shows/tells a tutoring, teaching, or administrative technique or theory, or explains a specific issue/project in relation to theory, research, and/or practice. 1-3 presenters.
- 60-minute panel discussion: A group of people who present and discuss different perspectives on a current writing centre-related issue. 3-5 presenters.
- 60-minute workshop: A hands-on, interactive presentation/activity, which allows presenters and participants to tackle a specific teaching, tutoring, or administrative technique/project. 2-4 presenters.

- 30-minute roundtables session: Presenters interested in getting feedback on work in progress will present their ideas/projects for 5-10 minutes then get feedback from participants around the table for another 20 minutes. Roundtables are excellent venues for giving and receiving targeted feedback and engaging in in-depth discussions. No AV available.
- Poster session: A visual and interactive exhibit that allows for short and informal discussions between the presenter(s) and the attendees. No AV available. 1-2 presenters.

2. **PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL:**

- Format:** Only Word or .pdf documents attached to emails will be accepted.
- Language:** Proposals in French are encouraged as well as proposals in English.

3. **SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL** (vii-ix is only for SSHRC-related pre-submissions, until **Oct. 10**):

- Proposals are due **by December 1, 2015**.
- Please include the following information for **each** presenter:
 - First and last name
 - Job title (e.g. writing centre director, writing instructor, tutor)
 - Organization and Department/Division
 - Institution name, city, and province/state/country
 - Email address
 - If the above contact information can be included in the conference program (yes or no)
 - Degrees, specifying discipline and starting with the most recent (maximum four lines)
 - Recent positions and positions relevant to the event, starting with the most recent (max 5 lines)
 - Recent publications and publications relevant to the event, starting with the most recent (max. 10 lines)
- Title:** The title must not exceed 10 words and not include the presenters' names or institutional affiliations.
- Abstract:** Brief summary of the proposed session. It must not exceed 30 words and not include the presenters' names or institutional affiliations. It will be included in the conference.
- Session description:** The session description should be **100-150 words**, include a clearly stated purpose, conform to an appropriate session type (e.g., workshop), include supporting details and examples, contain evidence of current practice/research related to writing centre issues, and not include the presenters' names or institutional affiliations.
- Session format** (please select one):
 - 30-minute practice- or research-oriented session
 - 60-minute panel discussion
 - 60-minute workshop
 - 30-minute roundtables session
 - Poster session
- Please specify any **AV** or room requirements.
- Please email your proposal and complete application to Heather Fitzgerald at hfitzgerald@ecuad.ca
- Travel funding for presenting graduate and undergraduate students may be available; presenters will be notified at the time of acceptance if funding is available.
- Presenters will be notified by email concerning the status of their proposal **by January 15, 2016**.