

**\*\*\*\*\*Deadline for Proposals Extended\*\*\*\*\***

**2019 Iowa Writing Center Consortium**

**Friday, April 5, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Mount Mercy University, Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

**Co-hosted by Mount Mercy University, Coe College, and Cornell College.**

**Call for Proposals:**

***What we wish we knew: Socially constructing meaning across contexts***

As Writing Center professionals, we know that writing and meaning-making are both social acts. However, because many of us work alone, or with a small number of other writing center professionals, we may find ourselves isolated from social contexts. We also know that a collaborative ethos is key to the work that we do on a daily basis, as we help students become stronger writers. But what about our journeys to becoming stronger peer tutors and writing center professionals? What can we do to tap into the larger collaborative ethos as we explore what our Writing Center work means? In other words, how can we provide social contexts for one another?

The 2019 Iowa Writing Center Consortium will aim to do just that. Please plan to join us at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids on Friday, April 5, 2019. As you draft your proposals, we invite you to think about the ways you currently create and nurture such social contexts on your campuses or in the wider community. We also invite you to dream of ways we can create new contexts, in order to support one another and share our wealth of information, experiences, and ideas about our Writing Center work. For example:

- How do you intentionally bring the concept of socially-constructed meaning into tutor training?
- How do you work to ensure that all voices are included in collaborative meaning-making? Conversely, who is currently being left out of collaborative meaning-making, whether in your centers, on your campuses, or in the larger field?
- How do peer tutors and professional staff/faculty co-create meaning together—and what are the specific challenges of doing so?
- What do we wish instructors and administrators knew about our work? What barriers exist in our institutions or in the field as we seek to co-create meaning with our non-writing center colleagues and supervisors?

The day's schedule will include two types of sessions. The first will be 50 minute sessions, which can be workshops, roundtable discussions, or panels (with a limit of 3 presenters per session). The second type of session will be a "walk-through," which will include traditional posters as well as digital presentations. Have you made videos (for training, education, or promotion of your center)? Do you have a writing center blog, Facebook page, Twitter account, or other social media presence? Does your writing center have its own website? Bring your own laptop and show off your work!

Proposals in Word or pdf form should be emailed to Ben Thiel at [bthiel@mtmercy.edu](mailto:bthiel@mtmercy.edu) by ~~Friday, January 25, 2019~~ **Deadline extended to Monday, February 4!** Please limit proposals to approximately 250 words, and include the session title, format, and the names of all presenters.

We look forward to seeing you all in Cedar Rapids!

Sincerely,

Ben Thiel, Writing Specialist, Mount Mercy University

Laura Farmer, Writing Studio Director, Director of Fellowships and Scholarships, Cornell College

Jane Claspy Nesmith, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Director of the Writing Center, Coe College