# Views from the Trail: SSWCA & CUWP 2025 Conference

H Hybrid presentation (i	in-pe	erson and Zoom) I In-person presentation R REGISTRATION S Social Event	
V Virtual asynchronous	pre	sentation (Pre-recorded) T Virtual synchronous presentation (Zoom)	
MARCH 21 • FRIDAY			
<b>PINNED</b> 7:00am – 8:15am	R	Registration Hinckley	
<b>PINNED</b> 7:30am – 8:30am	S	Breakfast (NOTE: no coffee will be served)  Hinckley	
<b>PINNED</b> 8:30am – 8:45am	Н	WELCOMING ADDRESS Speakers: Amber Jensen, Jenny Goransson	
<b>PINNED</b> 8:45am – 9:45am	Н	Keynote by Dr. Tom Deans: "Who Is On This Trail With You?"  Speakers: Tom Deans  Playing on our conference theme of "Views from the Trail," this talk questions who is on the trail with us as we write, which includes, as we'll see, dead people and robots. We'll explore how all writing is deeply social, even when we set out to compose something on our own, and how all writing is always bound up in technologies, even if we swear off generative Al. Facing these realities can help us see what we are doing in writing centers more clearly; doing so may also help us argue more honestly and convincingly for the kinds of policies and practices that create healthy environments for writing in our schools.  Virtual attendees, please click on the Zoom link below to join this session live!	
10:00am – 10:40am	T	Bridging the Canyon between English and STEM: How Literary Skillsets Can Benefit Those in Scientific Disciplines  Zoom 2  Speakers: Anushka Saha, Lakshmi Iyengar  This presentation focuses on the marriage between STEM and writing. This approach  Focuses on the unique strategies needed to bridge the communication gap between STEM terminology and the clarity of writing structure. This initiative emphasizes humanitarian values' crucial role in the science and math world, preparing STEM students for the types of writing they will encounter in their future. Participants will not only learn the benefits of writing in STEM related fields, but also methods on how to engage with science departments and activity groups within STEM.	
10:00am – 11:15am	I	Building a Thriving Writers Club: Turning 'Writer's Block' into 'Writer's Rock'  Speakers: Melissa Heaton  Do you have students who love to write and would benefit from connecting and collaborating with students who have similar writing interests? In this breakout session, participants will learn how to organize a school writers club and cultivate a supportive and engaging environment for young writers. Educators will walk away with practical strategies for attracting students to the club, fostering a welcoming writing community, and designing effective writing activities that inspire creativityproviding students with invaluable insights into the writing process. This session aims to equip educators with the tools they need to create a vibrant literary community.	

10:00am - 11:15am

Clearing the Path: Removing obstacles to integrate writing across the curriculum, increasing the need for Writing Center support

TNRB 280 (Tanner)

Speakers: Leslie Dalton

You have a vision of the Writing Center as more than an extension of the English department—but how do you get teachers invested across the curriculum? This interactive workshop aims to help you transform perceptions and practices as you work to encourage your colleagues to provide students with more opportunities to write throughout the school day. Bring your concerns and we'll workshop activities and resources for you to take back. Once students are writing in every class from Art to Yoga, teachers and students across your school will clamor for access to Writing Center support.

10:00am - 11:15am

How does leisure reading impact writing and tutoring skills in the writing center?

Speakers: Taylor Brems, Eden Miller

TNRB 220A (Tanner)

How the favorite genre of books a tutor reads impacts how they react to different styles of writing work.

10:00am - 11:15am

Navigating a Rocky Path Together: Challenges SSWCs Face and the Supports University Writing
 Centers Can Provide

TNRB 270 (Tanner)

Speakers: Annika Peacock, Amber Jensen, Beatty, Claire Margetts Davis

One university faculty and three undergraduate student researchers share findings from the first year of a three-year study with 7 middle and high school partners who are starting peer writing centers. Learn about what we've identified as the most common challenges to writing center development and the supportive interventions university partners can offer. Finally, join us in a reflective conversation about your own centers' challenges and potential solutions university and secondary school partnerships could offer as we navigate this rocky path together.

10:00am - 11:15am

New Horizons, Familiar Paths: Working with Papers Outside Your Comfort Zone- TNRB 180 (Tanner)

Speakers: Merlin Blanchard, Christensen, Largey, Numbers, Maren Sorber

As tutors we often work with topics, papers, and genres we aren't familiar with. Any experienced tutor knows it can be challenging to advise writers when we aren't familiar with the subject matter or conventions of a given assignment. So what do we do? In this workshop we explore ways the Humanities student can feel more confident working with STEM papers, and for the STEM student to dip their toes into the Humanities!

10:00am - 11:15am

Search and Rescue: Helping Hopeless Clients Back on the Trail Speakers: Amelia Player

TNRB 230A (Tanner)

About 40% of students reported persistent feelings of hopelessness about school in 2023 and It's absolutely key for peer tutors to understand these feelings. In this presentation, learn strategies to challenge negative narratives and create a change of pace during sessions to best create engaging and productive sessions. Participants will also learn Lavoie's 6 motivation styles and how to best adapt them to clients to help meet their needs and provide support.

10:00am - 11:15am

Taking the Next Step: How Writing Centers can help with the College Application Process

Speakers: Chayse Radcliff, Kupka

TNRB 230B (Tanner)

As students go through senior year, the topic of college essays comes up and many are confused on how to form these essays. In our presentation, we will explain the overlooked components of writing college essays and strategies to tutor these essays. Attendees will participate by having the opportunity to discuss their personal experiences with college essays. Our goal with this presentation is to relieve stress for tutors as they enter the world of college essays and give them specific strategies for the best ways to tutor them. Participants will also

receive a handout with helpful tips on writing college essays.

#### The Importance of Connection Between Tutors and Writers

TNRB W122 (Tanner)

Speakers: Lee

When you look around yourself on the trail you see people and travelers in front, and behind you. When you meet someone on that trail it is important that you can feel like they care and will help you with whatever you are struggling with. You do not feel like they care if they give you a quick hello, and then help you up and walk away. For many people, it is difficult showcasing their writing to someone else. And it is even worse when it is being shown for critique. Humans crave connection. And are more open to change and critique when there is a connection between the writer and the tutor. With our workshop you will be given tools to take back to your home writing centers that will help build relationships with the writers you work with. We will begin with a presentation containing our research about relationship building, then collaborate on what skills to use in different scenarios, finishing off with a small project for those who attend to take back to their writing centers containing all the skills and information they learned. By the end, you will learn and feel the importance of having a connection with the writer being tutored, before they begin on their trail.

10:00am - 11:15am

#### I The Power of the Pen: Empowering Her to Write Her Story

TNRB 220B (Tanner)

Speakers: Charlotte Torrez, Miya Brown, Sadie Cowan, Gemma Williams

Our all-girls school empowers young women through education, believing that "girls with the will have the ability." Our writing center champions this mission with a supportive environment consisting of workshops, peer tutoring, and schoolwide partnerships that supply students with the skills to refine ideas across disciplines. Providing these resources, we inspire generations of female writers to break barriers, challenge norms, and redefine storytelling—paving paths for her to leave her mark on the literary landscape. Our presentation will discuss the unique ways empowerment exists in our community while providing tangible strategies any center can adopt to foster learning and growth.

10:00am - 11:15am

## Tutor Trainings and Writing Center Programs to Support ESL/Multilingual Writers

Speakers: Katie Watkins

TNRB 210B (Tanner)

Tutoring multilingual writers can present some unique challenges, but it can also open up awesome opportunities for learning, growth, and connection for both tutor and student. In this session, undergraduate tutors from a university writing center will share tips for how to best meet the needs of multilingual writers in writing center sessions.

10:00am - 11:15am

Connecting through Conversation: How Peer Consultants Mediate Autonomous Writing

Zoom 1

Speakers: Diya Gaur, Icsezen, Ramos, Rogue

In an age of technological innovation how is it that we are able to take into account digital tools while guiding writers in a way that maintains their ownership over a piece of writing? As writing consultants, we are intent on ensuring that we do not just improve writing, but the writer themself. When AI is used in the writing process - as it so often has been - how do we ensure that students remain the owner of their work? Through our presentation we will discuss the ways in which we can use conversation as a tool to maintain autonomy.

10:00am – 11:15am

# Perspectives and Insights from the Middle East to the Mid-Atlantic. How Tutors Can Best Support Immigrant Students (from immigrant EL to confident tutor)

Zoom 3

Speakers: Spozhmai Hagpaul, Ngour

Our presentation highlights strategies for supporting immigrant students, based on our own experiences as immigrants from the Middle East. We'll cover why we moved, the support systems that helped us, and lessons learned. As veteran tutors, we're committed to helping others adapt. Effective support for immigrant students requires understanding diverse backgrounds and challenges. This discussion aims to help tutors create a welcoming space, empowering students and debunking myths about immigrant success. Our families have achieved more here than we thought possible, and we hope to inspire that same resilience in others.

10:00am - 3:45pm

## V Exploring the Horizon: Connecting Community through a Satellite Cetner to Foster Stronger Connections

Pre-recorded video

Speakers: Chang, Jared Riddick, Torres, Visger

This workshop presentation outlines the creation of the writing center satellite, which focuses on creating a comfortable study environment that strengthens student confidence on content material and improves test and assignment scores. The center will expand our connections across campus, ensuring all students have access to our facilities. To increase student confidence, we prioritize low stress environments that focus on guided studying to help students increase their abilities in comfortable environments. We will explain the methods and ideas behind our satellite center, and how it benefits our clients by expanding our center's impact.

10:00am - 3:45pm

#### From Simple Spaces to Happy Faces: How Interior Design can Improve the Efficacy and **Comfort of Writing Centers** Pre-recorded video

Speakers: Anjali Konda, Sophia Lou, Yolanda Pan

As we step into our writing center, a cacophony of voices echo over overcrowded tables, while therapeutic coloring pages and decorations give life to the space. Upon entering, the view seems calming but leaves much to be desired. The interior design of physical environments can evoke feelings of happiness but can also be conducive to frustration. In this presentation, we will use our writing center as a case study to examine the beneficial and harmful ways ambience affects the student psyche. Join us on the trail to a more inviting writing center!

10:00am - 3:45pm

#### Navigating New Paths for Asynchronous Feedback

Pre-recorded video

Speakers: Teagan Hale, Caitlin Maio

With the rise of AI, some may guestion the future of asynchronous tutoring; however, this presentation will explore new paths for the future of asynchronous feedback. We'll start our journey with a comparison of the benefits and drawbacks of in person vs. asynchronous tutoring, view the barriers that both forms have suffered from, and map new trails that allow for greater accessibility and more effective feedback that engage and welcome more writers. The audience will gain an understanding of an array of differentiated asynchronous tutoring feedback strategies to enhance accessibility and flexibility.

10:00am – 3:45pm

#### V The View from Another Trail: Building Empathy and Support for Every Client Pre-recorded video Speakers: Emmett Lach

This presentation aims to equip tutors with strategies for effectively supporting difficult clients by understanding their unique situations. Factors such as mental health issues or external pressures like work obligations may contribute to their challenges. Identifying these issues can be tough, but the session will cover methods to build trust between tutors and clients. This trust increases the likelihood that clients will share their concerns, allowing tutors to act as active listeners. While the primary goal is academic support, recognizing and addressing clients' mental well-being is essential for facilitating their overall success.

**PINNED** 

S Lunch

Tanner Atrium

11:15am - 12:00pm 12:00pm - 1:15pm

## Creating a Writing Center Professional Learning Community: Blazing a Trail with School, District, University, and Writing Project Partners

TNRB 180 (Tanner)

Speakers: Amber Jensen, Gardner

Every teacher knows the value of an effective professional learning community (PLC). And every writing center director knows how easy it is to feel isolated in this work. This roundtable will offer participants an opportunity to hear from a school district administrator, a university writing center director, and a National Writing Project site director who collaborated to create a PLC with secondary writing centers in their area. This will be a chance for participants to begin thinking about ways to create a writing center PLC with invested partners in their own contexts.

12:00pm - 1:15pm

## Encouraging Engagement in the Writing Center: How to Work with Uninterested and Timid **Writers**

TNRB 230B (Tanner)

Speakers: Calvin Duke, Ben Allred

Encourage greater participation with your tutees and transform your writing center into a vibrant space of student engagement. Join us in this engaging session crafted to target your issues with shy students, where we'll explore innovative strategies to bring students to your writing center and keep them actively engaged. Learn how to create environments that are inviting and inspire creativity and collaboration. Discover effective techniques to strengthen connections between you and your tutee. This session will provide you with practical tools and insights to elevate student participation and support their writing success. Don't miss this opportunity to improve your tutoring approach and make your writing center an essential part of students' academic journey!

#### 12:00pm – 1:15pm

#### Making Students Feel More Comfortable While Tutoring

TNRB 230A (Tanner)

Speakers: Connor Frampton

Has a tutoring session gotten awkward with the client? In this presentation the attendees will be exploring wonderful tips and tricks to get people to connect with the tutor. This course will talk about how to get the students to engage with the tutor during the sessions. It is really beneficial to know and hopefully this can be applied to different tutoring sessions in the future. At this presentation the participants will be glad that they have selected it. The presentation will discuss many topic points so you know how to handle any situation that is thrown at you. For example, some students may act shy, and this course will explore strategies to help them overcome that behavior.

#### 12:00pm - 1:15pm

## Rethinking Strategies and Sessions: Providing Equitable Support for Multilingual Writers Speakers: Katie Watkins, Michael Gerber

TNRB W110 (Tanner)

This presentation describes the design and outcomes of a writing-center-based peer tutoring program (where tutors are paired with multilingual students whom they meet with regularly throughout a semester) and accompanying tutor training curriculum, providing a data-rich model other writing centers can draw upon as they reimagine equitable support for multilingual writers at their centers.

#### 12:00pm - 1:15pm

## Staying on Track: Managing Pride and Stubbornness on the Tutoring Trail

TNRB 220 (Tanner)

Speakers: Ella Astudillo, Bella Nguyen

Many people, especially tutors, can easily develop a rigid mindset, too proud of the work they know to adapt to the ever-changing trails. In this workshop, we will explore the role pride and stubbornness play in our tutoring sessions. These traits act as roadblocks, hindering effective tutoring. Pride can also work as a trail guide, providing us with motivation and standards we must live up to. Additionally, a lack of pride and stubbornness can result in imposter syndrome, which also negatively impacts tutors. Follow us down the trails as we navigate the paths that best combat these inevitable roadblocks.

#### 12:00pm - 1:15pm

The Power of Peer Tutoring in Information Literacy and the Research Process TNRB 210 (Tanner) Speakers: Bragg, Chris Miner, Brittany Maloy, Hannah Criser, Mary Tucker, Hallie Heaton Our university writing center has a unique cultural context of a writing center that collaborates with the library and combines both writing and research tutoring for students. These two seemingly separate trails have converged in a powerful path to guide students on their way through the research and writing process. From the library side, we provide student tutors to help guide students through the research process including helping students build and practice information literacy skills. We believe these techniques and tutoring practices have application to both high school and college writing centers. This workshop will cover the training for these tutors for the different types of consultations we have (developing a research question, finding sources, developing a research strategy, and source evaluation.) We will hear from five student research tutors and their experiences engaging in this work. Finally, we will facilitate discussions on how research tutoring can apply in different educational contexts.

## 12:00pm - 1:15pm

#### Tutors or Stand-Up Comedians: The Benefits of Humor and Laughter in Writing Center **Appointments** TNRB 270 (Tanner)

Speakers: Evren Durham

Why did Shakespeare only write in ink? Pencils confused him — 2B or not 2B? I know, a very corny joke, but that may be just what writing center appointments need more of.

#### TNRB W122 (Tanner)

#### Writing with the Body in Mind

Speakers: Naomi Watkins

We often think of writing as a purely mental exercise, but the truth is, it's a full-body experience. By incorporating physical and sensory elements into writing instruction, we can help students tap into their creativity and produce more engaging work. Discover exercises and techniques to unlock the power of the mind-body connection in writing and discuss ways to incorporate these practices into peer tutoring and writing centers.

#### 12:00pm – 1:15pm

## T Language, Identity, and Inclusion: Navigating AAVE in Writing Centers

Zoom 1

Speakers: Olwana

African-American Vernacular English (AAVE) is a dialect born in the Southeastern United States. To the untrained eye, AAVE can be seen as "bad English." Linguistic research today allows us to change our approach AAVE in the writing center, supporting students of all backgrounds.

## 12:00pm – 1:15pm

# T Our Favorite Rollercoaster: Schemas of Guidance and Mentorship in the Writing Center Pedagogy

Zoom 2

Speakers: Margarete Tran, Safa Touri

Mentorship is an unconscious aspect of our early lives that often begins with the guidance of parents and teachers, evolving to our own peers. As tutors fill the roles left available by graduates, they may find they develop an understanding of the writing center pedagogy not previously held. It is hence essential that, as the mentee moves into the mentor, the presence of new perspectives must reinforce the continuation and improvement of operations. In turn, the Tutor Buddies Initiative, imperative of a closed feedback loop, schemas of metacognitive thinking, and the importance of mentorship shape the platform of our presentation.

#### 12:00pm – 1:15pm

# T The expedition to finding your original writing voice: Discovering your voice in the wilderness of capstone project writing

Speakers: Patel, Nava Samaniego, Lina Bernstiel, Taaffe

NEWS FLASH! What if I told you your best writing was just a thought away? This workshop invites individuals to explore innovative strategies—such as freewriting, reflection, and word dumps—that empower writers to break free from conventional norms. We'll uncover how to embrace passion, learn from others, and reflect on our writing to reveal our unique styles. Be ready to engage in interactive activities designed to enhance creativity and confidence in our collective writing journey. Join us for an inspiring exhibition that will transform not only your writing but the way you perceive your creative voice!

#### 12:00pm - 1:15pm

# T Views From A Rocky Trail: How to help SLIFE students find their footing in a new learning environment Zoom 1

Speakers: Riley

This presentation focuses on strategies to support immigrant students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE). SLIFE refers to a student's schooling that has been disrupted for an extended period, resulting in significant gaps in their learning. Attendees will get an insight into the daily challenges these students face, including academic struggles, language barriers, and social difficulties.

Additionally, the session will offer practical approaches to building resilience and confidence in SLIFE students. By fostering supportive relationships and engaging them in hands-on learning sessions educators can empower these students to thrive academically and socially.

## 1:25pm - 2:05pm

## T Creative Criticism: Bridging Artistic Feedback and Tutoring

Zoom 3

Speakers: Claire Rahilly

In the academic sphere, it can feel as though visual arts and argumentative writing exist in two entirely different worlds. This mentality hinders potential growth that many students are capable of achieving by looking at their and others' work through a creative perspective. Because feedback on writing and art critique share the common characteristic of purpose it can be extremely beneficial to follow the guidelines set by art critique when tutoring in writing skills. Through the presentation, audiences will learn through interactive activities and examples how to use a traditional method of critique in tutoring

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

## Academic Brainrot: How Tutors Can Aid in the Comprehension of Scholarly Works

Speakers: Eloise Leverenz, Ellie Sanderson, Sophie Wu

TNRB 230B (Tanner)

Not everyone can be a trained world champion hiker; some might start out on an easier trail while others prefer to jump straight into rocky terrains. However, some might be launched into the unfamiliar forests of academic writing and may not have the resources to combat the uneven gravel littering their paths. When a writer arrives at this fork in the road, it is our job as tutors to guide them through the intricate webs of ideas often found in daunting scholarly works. Our presentation aims to address the significance of students' understanding of academic sources to broaden all writers' horizons.

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

## Confession Session With 1st Time Tutors: Trail Markers to Look for on Your Writing Center TNRB 220 (Tanner)

Speakers: Busker, Wardell, Wilson, Eleanor Wardell, Alivia Thompson, Gines, Gardner During our 'Confession Session' we'll share everything we went through trial by fire to learn: dealing with nerves, tips and tricks, how to tutor, personal experiences, building our center from scratch, and much more. It's a tough climb, but we're fresh off the hike and ready to tell you everything you need to know to follow the trail markers, stay on track, and enjoy the journey.

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

#### Data That Speaks: Building Support for Your Writing Center

TNRB W110 (Tanner)

Speakers: Low, McNett

Writing center data can often feel like an overwhelming information overload, but it holds untapped potential to tell a compelling story about the value of our work. How can writing center directors distill this wealth of information into clear, impactful messages that resonate with the right stakeholders? In this session, attendees will explore strategies for identifying the most relevant data for different audiences, evaluate real-world examples of effective data presentation, and develop their own tailored plan for sharing data in ways that build understanding and support for their writing centers.

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

## Empowering Young Writers and Leaders: Building Effective Middle School Writing Centers

Speakers: Jennifer Brodrick

TNRB 270B (Tanner)

Middle school students are at a critical developmental stage, which can significantly impact their academic and personal growth. Writing centers are a place where they can gain the confidence and skills needed to navigate their remaining school years. This session delves into the unique considerations and accommodations necessary to create effective writing centers tailored to middle school students. As a first-year middle school writing center director, I will be sharing engaging approaches and experiences that will help build your writing center into a hub of creativity and learning.

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

#### From One Place to the Next: What Taekwondo Has Taught Me About Peer Tutoring

Speakers: Westfall

TNRB W122 (Tanner)

What do Taekwondo and high school writing centers have in common? They both aim to help students learn and grow. Walk the trail with me as I adapt and apply 10 invaluable teaching skills as a martial arts instructor to oneon-one interactions with peers.

This workshop will introduce you to 10 easy-to-use Class Management Skills, their success in the writing center, and how you can easily apply them in your own practices.

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

#### How we CLIMB!

TNRB 230A (Tanner)

Speakers: Norah Thomas, Logan DeWitt, Gina Rex, Ari Smith, Alexis Hall

More than just a place, the writing center is a living, breathing, always-changing ecosystem. In order for our writing center to better help our students, we have developed several different ways to improve our writing center. We hope that by doing this, students of different skill levels and understandings can improve their writing while also having a positive experience in our writing center. In this presentation we will discuss the research we have done that has improved the general culture, reading levels, session success and therefore the writing of our students. We hope that by doing these things, our writing center can be a place where students can feel comfortable, while learning and improving.

#### Leave a Trace: Adapting Your SSWCA Presentation into a JPTSS Article

TNRB 180 (Tanner)

Speakers: Ilse Eskelsen, Annika Peacock

You've brought your ideas, your insights, and your research to SSWCA—now what? If you want to reach a wider audience, make your impact last, and add a line on your resume, come learn how to adapt your presentation into an article for the Journal of Peer Tutoring in Secondary Schools! You've already done most of the work; come join us (JPTSS's editorial assistants!) as we give tips and tricks and have one-on-one conversations to help you make even more headway as you leave a trace on the trail of secondary school writing center research.

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

## Narrow the Road: Doing Downtime Alone in the Writing Center

TNRB 270A (Tanner)

Speakers: Elizabeth Cramarosso

Downtime in the secondary school writing center presents a problem for the high school teacher-director. If the tutors aren't tutoring, what are they doing in class? Last year, we transitioned from tackling administrative labor in groups to tackling it as individuals. This new terrain has enabled students to chart their own singular paths with more discovery and personal fulfillment than our collaborative groups had previously allowed.

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

#### Reflection: How to Approach Tutoring as a Craft

TNRB 210B (Tanner)

Speakers: Mabel Court, Mariah Fry, Gardner, and Gracie Keisel Lee

Whether you are an artist or a rock climber, honing your skills requires more than just doing something over and over. Reflection fuels improvement. In the writing center, reflection is a core principle for a reason—it is key to approaching tutoring as a craft. In addition to overviewing how one writing center incorporates reflection into their tutor training program, this conversation will also feature tutors describing how their reflective practices shape their tutoring. This presentation will be great for tutors looking for ways to hone their craft and directors looking for ways to help them!

#### 1:25pm - 2:40pm

## Trail of Trust: Building Safe and Nurturing Connections Between Tutors and Tutees

Speakers: Ball TNRB 210A (Tanner)

For tutors and middle school advisors: building a safe, nurturing environment is essential for effective tutoring, particularly when middle school tutors support younger secondary students. Middle schoolers differ from high schoolers in their developmental stages, needing more guidance and reassurance. This session addresses these differences, creating a supportive atmosphere that fosters trust and rapport. Participants will learn techniques tailored to middle schoolers' needs, focusing on open communication and collaboration. Through interactive activities and discussion, attendees will gain practical skills to recognize and address the unique challenges younger students face, enhancing the tutoring experience for both tutors and their tutees

## 1:25pm - 2:40pm

## T Assisting All: Incorporating Visual Learning into Tutoring

Zoom 2

Speakers: Marieka Calhoun

In the writing center, we seek to honor the ways people differ from one another. By exploring how visual information and multimodal teaching can help students to produce their best writing, this presentation acts as a first step towards bringing more creativity and innovation into tutoring. Attendees will be provided with a toolbox of multimodal tactics that can be applied to all tutoring sessions. By utilizing such tools and understanding their benefits for students from different backgrounds or with disabilities, the writing center can be a more inclusive and helpful space for all learners.

#### 1:25pm – 2:40pm

# T Footprints of Diversity: The Steps and Approaches to Outreach for a More Diverse Writing Center Zoom 1

Speakers: Mariam Hamouie, Pope, Ravi

Diversity is a big issue in the writing center. Whether it be the people coming into the center or the people that work there, it is not a common sight to see different and unfamiliar faces. This presentation will show you how you can promote and embrace diversity in your writing center by using many different forms of advertising and marketing. After seeing this presentation, we're sure you will reflect on what you thought was a once-diverse writing center, and find out that your new writing center has become a diverse place in race, religion, gender, and grade level.

1:25pm - 2:40pm

## T Insights from Intersections: Tutoring Across Fields in an All-Subject Tutoring Center

700m 2

Speakers: Wanzhi Li

In a time when interdisciplinary learning is becoming increasingly relevant, writing centers have the chance to explore the intersections and connections of tutoring across different subjects. This presentation will share some unique experiences from a writing and tutoring center that offers assistance across a variety of subjects. Participants will explore how tutoring strategies involved in math, sciences, and other fields can be transferred to enrich tutoring in the humanities, and vice versa. We will also share how interactions between multiple subjects have created a tutoring center that is inclusive and welcoming to a larger community of students interested in or seeking assistance across diverse fields.

#### **PINNED**

2:40pm - 3:00pm

## Snack Break Sponsored by Central Utah Writing Project

Tanner Atrium



#### 3:00pm - 4:15pm

#### **Beyond Coworkers: Building Community Among Tutors**

TNRB 230A (Tanner)

Speakers: Kate Fowler, Mia Shumway

Writing centers make an important contribution to the community of their institution, but what about the community that exists within the writing center itself? In this presentation, we will focus on the challenges writing centers may face in trying to foster community among their staff and present solutions that have been effective for our center at Brigham Young University.

#### 3:00pm - 4:15pm

## Creating Necessity: Integrating Secondary Writing Centers into Existing School Structures and **Programs**

TNRB 220 (Tanner)

Speakers: Brian Ellingford

Too often, writing centers are seen as niche programs meant only to supplement the English department. But a writing center has the potential to support and improve virtually every aspect of a school. This workshop will explore ways to integrate your school's writing center into individual classrooms and curricular departments; counseling, college, and career centers; professional development programs; and RTI and student success teams and committees. You will leave this workshop with specific strategies and plans to increase your writing center's influence and positive impact within your school.

## 3:00pm - 4:15pm

### **Directors Roundtable (In-person)**

TNRB 180 (Tanner)

Speakers: Stacey Hahn

#### 3:00pm - 4:15pm

## **Enabling Self-Confidence in Students Attending Writing Centers**

TNRB 230B (Tanner)

Speakers: Hunter Stevenson

Improving students is the core motivation that drives a writing center. One of the largest setbacks to this vision is the lack of self-confidence in these students. So how can we inspire this confidence in our students to ensure that they reach their fullest potential? In this session, we'll explore effective methods practiced in our writing center, supplemented with proven strategies from published research. We'll discuss various ways tutors can help their clients increase their writing confidence. Participants will experience interactive sessions, story-sharing about confidence, and receive practical resources to take away for future reference.

## 3:00pm - 4:15pm

## Exploring the Ethical Uses of AI for Non-native English Speakers in Modern Writing Centers Speakers: Kai McMullin, Elijah Bustamante-Martinez

TNRB 210 (Tanner)

The prevailing discourse frames AI as a threat to traditional writing; however, rather than focusing on "catching" Al, we should prioritize its ethical application within modern writing centers. This presentation will explore Al's potential to support non-native English speakers in overcoming challenges in academic writing. As AI becomes integral to the writing process, it is essential to harness it to empower historically marginalized writers, facilitating their academic success through advanced, responsible technology.

#### 3:00pm - 4:15pm

#### How School-Wide Writing Instruction Supports a Successful Writing Center

Speakers: Reegan Alder, Bell

Two teachers launched Writing Centers this year with drastically different experiences. The conclusion: one of the schools has a natural focus towards writing in ELA classes and across curriculum; the other did not. This left us thinking about how a school's attitude toward writing can impact the success of a writing center and what we can do about it. This workshop will focus on how to implement writing instruction across curriculums (WAC) resulting in a more robust writing center. No matter what school culture you come from, you will walk away with ready-to-use strategies on how to utilize your writing center to promote writing across curriculums, how to advocate for a writing center class, and how your center can manage the influx of writers you will see as a result of your work.

## 3:00pm - 4:15pm

#### The "Third Space": Meaning-Making and Identity Development for Emerging Bilinguals through Writing TNRB 280B (Tanner)

TNRB W110 (Tanner)

Speakers: Cutler, Thrush

Multilingual learners (MLLs) and emerging bilinguals often face isolation and challenges while learning English and navigating a new culture. This session explores how writing fosters identity development and meaningmaking, emphasizing the importance of first-language proficiency in acquiring a second language. Participants will discuss practical, holistic strategies for teaching MLLs and creating inclusive, supportive classrooms. Through writing, reflection, and discussion, teachers will leave with innovative ideas for lessons, units, and teaching methods that empower MLLs to preserve their cultural identities while succeeding academically and personally.

#### 3:00pm - 4:15pm

## **Tutor Roundtable (In-person)**

TNRB W122 (Tanner)

Speakers: Madelyn Engstrom

#### 3:00pm - 4:15pm

## Writing on Purpose: Strategies to Move Writing Beyond Summary

TNRB 280A (Tanner)

Speakers: Anderson

Have you even graded a batch of essays to realize you're reading summaries? Too often our students do not reach beyond the plot chart when analysing literature. With some simple strategies, you can bring balance to their writing. Teaching students to use summary, commentary, and evidence is key to a proper paper.

#### 3:00pm - 4:15pm

## T Director Roundtable (virtual)

Zoom 2

Speakers: Heather Barton

#### 3:00pm - 4:15pm

#### T Mapping Your Writing: Navigating Style

Zoom 1

Speakers: Hughes, Alexandria Barahona, Lewis, Rodkey

As writers, it can be difficult to choose a path of style as it weaves through all types of writing. It's normal to follow a standard map of convention - especially in academia - while we should take on any genre playfully as we blaze our own trail. Not only do we write to write, but we write to be read, and other aspects inform the style that we use. This presentation will help writers navigate different approaches to style using new interpretations of writing center classics and writers will leave with 3 distinct definitions of style to work through themselves.

#### **PINNED**

### S Directors' Social

Conference Hotel (Hyatt Place Provo) (180 W. 100 N., Provo, UT 84601)

8:00pm - 9:30pm

Speakers: Jenny Goransson

Sponsors: SSWCA

Meet at the bistro of the conference hotel (Hyatt Place Provo) for an informal gathering with other SSWC directors! One beverage is on us! Swing by anytime between 8 and 9:30 p.m.

Please note: due to Utah law, an entree must also be ordered if you wish to order an alcoholic drink.

H Hybrid presentati	n (in-person and Zoom)	STRATION S Social Event	
T Virtual synchrono	s presentation (Zoom)		
MARCH 22 • SATURI	AY		
<b>PINNED</b> 7:30am – 8:30am	Breakfast Sponsored by National Writing Project (NOTE: no coffee will be served)  Tanner Atrium		
<b>PINNED</b> 7:45am – 8:30am	R Registration	Tanner Atrium	
8:30am – 9:45am	Perspectives Regarding Student-Run Spaces in Schools Speakers: Evren Durham, Schott This presentation will cover how the educational institution has cor school environment and the profound effect this has had on studer strict regimens, and occasionally even duplicitous power figures, the students' hesitancy (or even outright rejection) of student-run space	Big Brother, Foucault, and the Writing Center: How to Rise Above Negatively Shaped Student Perspectives Regarding Student-Run Spaces in Schools TNRB 284A (Tanner) Speakers: Evren Durham, Schott This presentation will cover how the educational institution has continuously worked to establish its preferred school environment and the profound effect this has had on student bodies. Defined by constant surveillance, strict regimens, and occasionally even duplicitous power figures, this environment has unconsciously informed students' hesitancy (or even outright rejection) of student-run spaces like writing centers. The question we will be addressing is how do we fight this and keep our writers safe from Big Brother?	
8:30am – 9:45am	Drawn to Write: Two Games to Teach Information Literacy Skills that Improve Writing  Speakers: Merrill  Experience two easy-to-run activities that teach students about their responsibilities as writers of research.  These games establish a collective schema for your class that you can regularly use to teach students how to find, synthesize, and communicate information responsibly. Play the games, explore the research that informs them, and walk away with multiple resources to use in your classroom or writing center!		
8:30am – 9:45am	Sharing the Trail: Supporting Secondary School Writing Center Tutors through Field Trips to University Writing Centers  TNRB 260 (Tanner)  Speakers: Michael Gerber, Ilse Eskelsen, Annika Peacock, Brown  Join us in a conversation about how a university writing center can help support the development and sustainability of SSWCs through field trips to the university writing center. As college tutors in a university partnership with local SSWCs, we sometimes get asked how we actually support those centers. In this presentation, we will discuss one of our favorite projects: hosting secondary school tutor field trips. Find out how field trips can help secondary school tutors conceptualize the work they do; what our evolving itineraries have looked like; how we've overcome the inevitable challenges; what makes these field trips valuable to universities as well; and why we should all share the trail.		
8:30am – 9:45am	I Tools for the Trail: Blending Tutor-Created and Al Resourt Speakers: Maeve Dolan, Mattie Ray As tutors, we are invited to bring tools with us on the tutoring trail. Successful we can be with our clients. We need strategies to use a learning journey. In this presentation, tutors and teachers alike will seamlessly integrating technological and Al-generated resources in healthy balance with tutor-created materials. This balance puts clientesources to adapt to individual needs. By integrating technology to	What is in our packs will determine how emerging technology to support our clients' learn several different approaches to nto their center, while still maintaining a ents at the center of learning, while still giving	

experience without replacing human connection.

#### Wander, Wonder, Write: A Nature-Inspired Mind-Body Writing Experience

Speakers: Naomi Watkins

Embark on a transformative journey through the natural world with this unique workshop. Engage in a guided forest bathing walk, inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku, that invites you to immerse yourself in nature, using your senses to connect with the environment. To conclude, we will engage in a sensory writing activity, using our observations from the forest bath to create moving and meaningful writing. This workshop offers a unique opportunity to connect with nature, cultivate mindfulness, and express yourself creatively. All abilities and roles are welcome. All you need is an open mind, a desire to write, and a willingness to explore.

#### 8:30am - 9:45am

#### Why Al Can't Replace Writing Tutors, but it Can Benefit Us

TNRB 270 (Tanner)

TNRB 240 (Tanner)

Speakers: Rodea, Becker

As AI technology advances, it is increasingly used by writers for brainstorming, research, and even drafting. Writing tutors now face the question: how can they collaborate with Al while maintaining the value of human interaction? Students often turn to AI for quick answers when stuck, but tutors can guide their skills to benefit learning. Al can streamline brainstorming, speed up research, and identify grammatical issues, yet it lacks the emotional depth and nuanced understanding a human can bring. By blending Al's efficiency with a tutor's insight, students can develop skills beyond what Al alone can offer.

#### 8:30am - 9:45am

#### Why I'm "Feline" What I'm "Feline": Writing with Narrative Nuance of They All Saw A Cat by **Brendan Wenzel** TNRB 280 (Tanner)

Speakers: Peter Hawkins

Dominated with headlines, social media feeds, and multi-modal messaging aimed at a single-story narrative structure, teachers know the first thing cut from widespread narratives is nuance. This workshop poses the pitfalls of a single story. Participants will walk away with multiple means of modeling classroom discussions and writing prompts problematizing the way portrayals and point of view are presented to audiences. Despite Brendan Wenzel's "They All Saw A Cat" being a children's book, this session allows any age group to interact and experience the space of being both victim and villain by delving into the necessary world of narrative nuance.

#### 8:30am - 9:45am

## T Charting the College Course Uphill: Creative Nonfiction Views On Tutoring the College Essay Speakers: Thakekar, Tiffanie Huang, Danielle Hackett

700m 3

Explain your entire life in 650 words (no stress, no pressure). In a college admission process increasingly focused on "holistic review", the personal statement has become more important. Our presentation provides strategies for peer consultants to help writers through brainstorming, drafting, and revising, based in a creative nonfiction writing framework to equip writers with strategies to identify how to tell their own unique story within a limited word count. Attendees will take away strategies situated within the creative nonfiction genre that can help writers improve their craft and hone those strategies for tutoring the college essay format.

#### 8:30am - 9:45am

#### Leveraging Partnerships: Developing Writing Centers in the K-12 Setting through a Writing **Project and University Writing Center Partnership** 700m 2

Speakers: Beth Rimer, Woods

What happens when a National Writing Project site, a university writing center and a group of K-12 educators collaborate around school-based writing centers? New partnerships and thriving writing centers. In this session, the Ohio Writing Project will share a training model that builds on a partnership with Miami University's Howe Center for Writing Excellence, OWP and K-12 teachers. Participants will learn about the planning, implementation and follow-up of a one-day training designed to support the development of school-based, student-led writing centers in high schools and junior highs focused on research-based rationales, models of implementation, and time to problem-solve implementation barriers.

#### 10:00am - 11:15am

## Forks in the Road: How the Writing Center Can Bridge the Gap Between STEM and Humanities

Speakers: Rachel Lugardo

TNRB 210 (Tanner)

Students typically think of themselves as "science and math people" or "reading and history people." Naturally writing centers tend to lean towards the latter, but what happens if you're a scientifically inclined writing center tutor? If centers cater to humanities more, how does that affect STEM students? This workshop will provide tips on reading various types of papers and other forms of writing in order to help tutors feel more comfortable tutoring outside of their skill set!

#### 10:00am - 11:15am

## Grammar and Racism: The Importance of Supporting Diverse Writing Styles in Writing Centers

Speakers: Haynes, Rodriguez

TNRB 270B (Tanner)

Have you ever struggled to communicate with a writer as a result of a strong accent or non-traditional grammar? Although it may be frustrating for us as tutors, since our objective is to help writers improve, imagine how much more difficult this interaction must be from the writer's perspective. Think of their frustration after being told over and over that their work is incorrect and improper. As tutors, our purpose is to ensure that the writer gets their voice heard, not erase their identity. This presentation addresses the underlying racism embedded in grammar correction and how to address it.

#### 10:00am - 11:15am

#### Lost for Words: Vocabulary Acquisition Through Writing

TNRB 240 (Tanner)

Speakers: Reilly Ryan

The sheer breadth of the ELA curriculum forces teachers to make difficult decisions about which content to cut. For various reasons, vocabulary instruction often finds itself on the chopping block-teachers don't believe they have time for it or perhaps don't know how to teach it effectively.

In this presentation, teachers will learn how to implement vocabulary effectively into their instruction to help their students become more eloquent writers and, ultimately, develop the necessary skills to acquire vocabulary by themselves.

#### 10:00am - 11:15am

#### The Mountain of Burnout

TNRB 284B (Tanner)

Speakers: Emma Edgemon

Addressing burnout feels like staring down a mountain, but the mountain is surmountable. Using the metaphor of hiking, this presentation will walk through writing center strategies to overcome burnout and its symptoms; this includes creating a safe and inviting community, communication, committing to personal boundaries, and celebrating along the way.

#### 10:00am - 11:15am

## The Path to Powerful Language: Helping Students Move Beyond Clichés

TNRB 260 (Tanner)

Speakers: Wiederhold, Thompson

Want to teach students to generate fresh, non-cliché figurative language without resorting to AI? This session is about the nuance of instruction, the subtle teacher-craft moves that make all the difference for authentic, rich language exploration that moves beyond mere identification and basic imitation. We want to share what we have learned about rhetorically aware mentor text study that helps students understand the effects of figurative language for audience and purpose. We'll share effective strategies, including simile/metaphor generation, allusion imitation, hyperbole challenges, and personification creation activities, to enrich your classroom and empower students to craft more impactful, original language.

## 10:00am - 11:15am

## Together on the Trail: The Learning Center & Library in Collaboration for Stronger Student Writers

TNRB 280 (Tanner)

Speakers: Katie Sutcliffe, Tiffany Whitehead

Successful writing and tutoring centers don't operate in isolation. In this roundtable discussion, we will discuss leveraging the partnership between your school's library, writing center, and faculty in order to maximize writing instruction and support. In this collaborative setting, session leaders will share their own successful projects that have stemmed from these critical partnerships and invite participants to share, brainstorm and problem-solve challenges together in an informal, dynamic discussion.

#### 10:00am - 11:15am

## Trekking the Paths Ahead: The Value in Collecting and Implementing Feedback Surrounding **Tutor Communication**

TNRB 284A (Tanner)

Through the lens of two students, this proposal discusses the implementation of feedback into new paths and how to develop center wide success amongst tutors. Focusing on communicative efforts, the presentation goes through three examples of this implemented feedback: improving collaboration between tutors, utilizing limited time, and making outreach to the whole group both targeted and effective. Communication amongst tutors is vital - we go far when we go together.

10:00am - 11:15am

### What We Can Learn from Freshman Tutors

TNRB 270A (Tanner)

Speakers: McCarthy

At our center, freshman tutors face unique challenges. In their sessions, both they and their writers can struggle with feelings of inadequacy; writers feel embarrassed being tutored by fourteen-year-olds, and freshmen feel stressed giving advice on college essays when they just graduated middle school.

Yet, they are able to become leaders because they become the most experienced and knowledgeable in the center. Upperclassmen tutors also have the opportunity to mentor and guide younger members of our school community. I will present a case for age-diverse centers, along with strategies to ensure younger tutors are supported.

#### 10:00am - 11:15am

#### T Tutor Roundtable Discussion (Virtual)

Zoom 1

Speakers: Olwana, Adham Elbaragah

## PINNED

11:15am – 12:45pm

H Lunch Keynote by Dr. Anne Elrod Whitney: "Writing for Teachers, Tutors, and other Human

Beings: Powerful, Principled Practice to Ground and Sustain Our Work"

Zoom and Hinckley

Speakers: Anne Elrod Whitney

Writing matters. More specifically, your writing matters. And your students' writing matters. Because writing matters so much, in such specific and spectacular ways, those of us charged with caring for writers as tutors and teachers are called to do our work in a principled, purposeful manner. Our practice must be more than "practical" in the sense of being useful within the systems we find ourselves within; it also must be principled, grounded in professional knowledge and personal priorities. Principled practice of the kind I'll be sharing here guides our work now, but also: it will sustain us in the work now and in times to come. In my talk, I will share stories about how writing has mattered in my own career and life. I'll then draw from research and my books to make the case for writing, grounded in principles of our professional communities and commitments, as a powerful, sustaining force that we need now. I'll also offer concrete strategies to help you "plug in" to this power source.

This session is sponsored by the National Writing Project.

Virtual attendees, please click on the Zoom link below to join this session live!

#### **PINNED**

11:15am - 12:45pm

1:00pm - 1:40pm

S Lunch Sponsored by National Writing Project

Hinckley

## T Honoring the Trailblazers: Connecting Yesterday's Visionaries to Today's Classrooms

Zoom 1

Speakers: Whitney Sorensen

Looking to those who forged the path ahead of us, this interactive presentation will connect our classroom practices and beliefs as writing instructors to the intellectual forebears in our field. Featuring the work of James Moffett— a trailblazer at the forefront of the discipline of composition, as well as an early leader in the National Writing Project— this session will allow participants to gain an understanding of Moffett's work and consider assignments and activities for writers today that are animated by Moffett's ideas.

#### 1:00pm - 2:15pm

"This is Water": Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence in English Language Arts instruction from
Utah State Board of Education's AI Education Specialist

TNRB 270 (Tanner)

Speakers: Winters

Generative AI has become a key tool for many educators, but due to a lack of understanding and clarity on how AI in education can be used, some educators may feel unprepared for using AI in safe and effective ways. Utah State Board of Education's (USBE) forward thinking leadership hired an AI Education Specialist in 2024 to help prepare our education system for AI use with best practices in data, privacy, and curriculum development at the forefront. Join this session to learn about how USBE has led out on work within their local and state communities while also building a network of like-minded educators across the country.

1:00pm - 2:15pm

## Clearing the Trail: Unlearning Media Myths in Everyday Information Literacy Training

Speakers: Hannah Criser, Mary Tucker

TNRB 240B (Tanner)

As undergraduate research consultants we hope to provide a nuanced perspective on how we can improve information literacy among students through our experience as peer-tutors. We have seen hundreds of patrons and have noticed that many have been taught outdated principles that no longer have a place in our current media landscape. Therefore, we wish to train other instructors in order to make information literacy more streamlined. Unlearning misconceptions can be difficult. By training conference participants on lateral reading, internet algorithms, and improved search strategies we can significantly improve media literacy at every age.

#### 1:00pm - 2:15pm

#### **College Tutoring Panel**

TNRB 284 (Tanner)

Speakers: Blair Johnson, Eric Prescott, Lily Jensen, Kayla Zayas, Katie Bledsoe Curious about what it's like to tutor in college? Interested to hear from current college students about what college writing is like? Want to ask general questions about the transition from high school to college? Join us for an informal Q&A with some current BYU Research and Writing Center tutors!

## 1:00pm - 2:15pm

## Empowering Voices: Designing a Student-Led Writing Center for a Small, Inclusive Learning Community

Speakers: Alex Heling, Melissa Reiser, Ash Rogers, Julian Harris-Lasecki, Emma Daughtry-Leiter, Katarine Miller

This workshop will guide attendees in creating a student-led secondary writing center tailored for students with a wide range of learning styles. In our small community of just over 100 students, we seek to amplify the unique gifts of every learner. Drawing on Czarnecki's idea of writing centers as revolutionary spaces, participants will engage in discussions on effective personalized learning strategies and the importance of recruiting tutors truly representative of the student body. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas and resources for fostering a writing center that celebrates student strengths and encourages meaningful engagement.

#### 1:00pm - 2:15pm

## Improving Writing Centers for Girls at All-Girl & Co-ed Schools Speakers: Olivia Tan

TNRB 240A (Tanner)

This session will delve into key differences between all-girls and co-ed writing centers, explore how all-girl schools can tailor their writing centers to support how girls learn, and explore how girls everywhere can help improve their writing centers. Along with many tips and tricks for girls-focused learning, we will unpack how writing centers can encourage girls to use both writing and tutoring as a tool of empowerment. Participants will also be able to develop and share their ideas to improve writing centers for girls, from the perspective of both tutor and tutee. The session will focus on gender-specific learning and teaching strategies that will help both tutors and students become more assertive, confident thinkers.

#### 1:00pm – 2:15pm

## Mentor Texts as a Pathway for Teaching Grammar and Usage

TNRB 280 (Tanner)

Speakers: Vicki Collet

Throw out ineffective grammar worksheets with lists of rules! In this session, we'll consider how mentor texts offer a trail to follow, bridging isolated grammar instruction and students' own work. Mentor texts provide authentic models that increase students' understanding of the syntax of language and of English writing conventions. Drawing on research, scholarship, and experience with young writers, this interactive presentation will provide examples of activities that turn any published text into a workshop for learning.

#### 1:00pm - 2:15pm

#### Recognizing Your Literacy Journey-A Step Toward Learning and Celebrating Through Reflection Speakers: Kristie Jolley TNRB 260 (Tanner)

A step toward helping students become life-long learners through writing is giving them the ability to recognize and celebrate their own progress through reflection. This presentation will highlight Hicks and Schoenborn's "Living Your Literacy Journey" survey as a tool to help students identify and celebrate their literacy growth throughout the course. We will work in back-channeling techniques through technology to create a safe space to take risks, encourage increased participation, and begin to synthesize experiences unique to each classroom dynamic.

2:30pm - 3:45pm

#### **Academic Mentor Assistant: Growing the Classroom into the Writing Center**

TNRB 210 (Tanner)

Speakers: Harris, Zhang

Our school isn't known for its writing. In fact, it's uncommon and has created a noticeable gap in our classrooms. Rather than accept this status quo, we embarked on an ambitious journey to transform our school into a thriving writing community. As a student-run writing center, we not only had to build the center itself from the ground up but also foster an entirely new culture of writing across our school. Our writing center operates uniquely within an academic course model, where tutors participate in a dedicated class for an hour and a half every other day. This course focuses on their training and development beyond the center's operational hours, equipping them with the skills to support their peers effectively. Our goal is to show others how to create not just a writing center but a team of tutors capable of cultivating a vibrant, school-wide writing culture. Through this process, we've discovered that anchoring our efforts in a structured class is the most effective approach for building both a successful writing center and a resilient community of writers. This journey has taught us the importance of adaptability and perseverance in overcoming the unique challenges faced by writing centers.

#### 2:30pm - 3:45pm

Beginning at the Trailhead: Changing the Narrative about the Research Process TNRB 270A (Tanner) Speakers: Hallie Heaton, Bragg, Chris Miner

Standing at the trailhead, the writing process stretches ahead of students, the mountain feeling insurmountable. It's easy to get stuck at mile marker zero, having no idea which trail to take. Research is the compass, guide, and first step on the path towards a successful paper. In this presentation we will reconstruct the common narrative of research as a creative process, discuss the role that peer tutors can have as a guide and resource on the escapade that is the writing process, allowing students to concur what feels unconquerable.

#### 2:30pm - 3:45pm

From Conflict to Composition: Integrating Peacebuilding Frameworks into Writing Center Praxis Speakers: Luci Sullivan TNRB 270B (Tanner)

Tension often bubbles under the surface of writing center work—between students and tutors, students and their assignments, and even within students and tutors themselves. This presentation draws on principles of peace and conflict resolution studies to reframe how tutors approach tensions in the writing center, taking them from potential sources of conflict that should be avoided to opportunities for collaboration and mutual growth. Writing tutors, administrators, and instructors will learn ways to guide student writers toward effective, peaceful negotiation of differences and encourage productive conversations about writing and the people and opinions behind it.

#### 2:30pm - 3:45pm

Playing with Poetry: Charting a New Course for Poetry Instruction

TNRB 240 (Tanner)

Speakers: Jessica Ashurst

Speakers: Melissa Heaton

The average student claims that they hate poetry. But, what if we try to get them to experience poetry by trying it in its various forms instead of only digging for meaning in obscure poetry? This session will explore innovative ways to guide students through the journey of poetry. In this progressive journey, students' grow into more confident writers as they learn to think like writers and notice engaging writer's craft choices. The practical activities and strategies modeled in this session foster students' abilities to make intentional choices, using mentor texts as models, to create poetry of their own and reflect on their own writing choices.

#### 2:30pm - 3:45pm

## Reading graphic novels with the eye of an illustrator Speakers: Alan Anderson

TNRB 280B (Tanner)

In this breakout session, participants will learn some of the techniques illustrators use to visually tell their stories. A brief history of comics will be presented, then comes the meat. Several techniques used by illustrators will be shared. Participants will gain a better appreciation for visual stories being told by illustrators.

#### 2:30pm - 3:45pm

## Writing Instruction with Al: Triumphs, Tragedies, and a Few Laughs Along the Way

TNRB 280A (Tanner)

In this breakout session, educators will explore the integration of artificial intelligence in writing instruction. This session will delve into the ups and downs of using AI tools in the classroom. Attendees will hear first hand stories of victories and comedic misadventures. We'll discuss practical strategies for leveraging AI to enhance creativity while addressing the challenges that arise, all while fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment. Participants will leave with actionable insights, resources, and a renewed sense of humor about the transformative role of AI in education. Join us for a lively discussion that proves innovation can be both effective and entertaining!

2:30pm - 3:45pm

## Writing Philosophy and Writing Identity in the Secondary Classroom

TNRB 260 (Tanner)

Speakers: Billings

This session will focus on strategies used in a 12th grade English Language Arts course to help students learn who they are as writers, gain an understanding of their writing strengths, and develop confidence to write for various purposes and audiences. Participants will receive an outline of the teaching unit, notebook prompts used during the unit, and papers along with rubrics used for the assessment during the unit.

2:30pm - 3:45pm

T Q&A session for asynchronous virtual presentation "From Simple Spaces to Happy Faces: How Interior Design can Improve the Efficacy and Comfort of Writing Centers" Zoom 3

Speakers: Sophia Lou, Yolanda Pan

If you viewed the pre-recorded presentation "From Simple Spaces to Happy Faces: How Interior Design can Improve the Efficacy and Comfort of Writing Centers" this is an opportunity to have a follow-up discussion with two of the presenters.