

Secondary School Writing Centers Association Timeline

Informal Regional Partnerships

- 2010 **Summit on High School Writing Centers**
February 1, 2010 at Fairfax High School in Fairfax, VA
Sponsored by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)

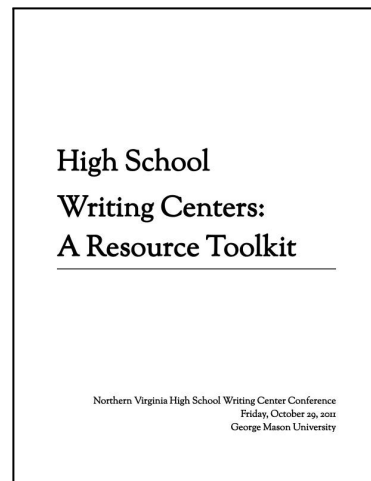
After founding the Edison High School Writing Center in 2009, Amber Jensen was asked to develop a half-day inservice for FCPS high school English teachers interested in starting peer writing centers at their schools. Dr. Leigh Ryan, director of the University of Maryland Writing Center and co-author of *The Bedford Guide to Peer Tutoring*, delivered a keynote address. Jensen and a group of Edison Writing Center tutors led the training day, attended by administrators and teachers from many of the 26 FCPS high school English departments.

- 2011 **Mini-regional Meeting for College and High School Writing Center Tutors**
April 2, 2011 at the University of Maryland
Sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association (MAWCA) and the University of Maryland Writing Center

To generate partnerships between high school and college writing centers in the Washington, DC area, Dr. Leigh Ryan and Amber Jensen organized this Saturday morning event attended by 76 tutors and directors from five high schools from Virginia and five colleges from Maryland and Pennsylvania. The event featured 21 roundtables proposed and led by pairs of high school and college tutors, and it ended with a tour of the University of Maryland campus.

High School Writing Centers: A Resource Toolkit

October 2011



Four writing center founder-directors (Beth Blankenship, Jenny Goransson, Alison Hughes, and Amber Jensen) developed a toolkit for high school writing centers. Using resources from their centers, the editors sorted the materials into five phases: planning and proposal; tutor recruitment, selection, and training; program implementation; curricular integration; and school-wide writing initiative, with an appendix for data collection and evaluation. Each section included guiding questions and copies of sample resources. The booklets were printed, bound, and distributed to each school attending the conference.

The Tricks and Treats of Being a High School Writing Center Tutor

October 29, 2011 at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA

Sponsored by Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP) and the George Mason University Writing Center

The first high school writing center tutor conference in Virginia, held on a Saturday, was planned by four writing center directors from FCPS high schools (Beth Blankenship, Jenny Goransson, Amber Jensen, Nikki Lehman) in partnership with NVWP and the GMU writing center. Speakers at the event included Dr. Paul Rogers (NVWP director), Dr. Terry Zawacki (GMU Writing Across the Curriculum director), and Dr. Dawn Fels (GMU Writing Center director). Nearly 100 peer tutors, representing 11 Virginia high schools attended afternoon workshops led by NVWP teacher consultants.

2012 Building Momentum: Second Annual Northern Virginia High School Writing Center Conference

October 12, 2012 at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA

Sponsored by Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP)

<p><i>REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!</i></p> <p>Building Momentum: 2nd Annual Northern Virginia High School Writing Center Conference</p> <p><small>A Collaborative Conference between George Mason University, the Northern Virginia Writing Project, and Fairfax County Public Schools</small></p> <p>Friday, October 12, 2012 7:30 am – 2:00 pm George Mason University – Student Union Building II</p>
<p>Sessions for Student Tutors, High School Writing Center Directors, & High School Administrators to include:</p> <p><i>Writing Workshops from NVWP Teacher Consultants</i> <i>Expert Advice from College Writing Center Tutor Panel</i> <i>Nuts and Bolts from Writing Center Director Presentations</i> <i>Practical Activities from Student Tutor Presentations*</i></p> <p><small>*Tutors: To submit a Presentation Proposal, see attached Call For Proposals.</small></p>
<p>Register by September 28, 2012</p> <p>Complete the Registration at this website.</p> <p><small>Limit 10 tutors per school.</small></p> <p>Send 10.00 per tutor and \$100.00 per school by September 28, 2012. Registration Fee will provide lunch, t-shirt, and raffle.</p> <p>Please write your checks to "George Mason University" and mail to: Sara Duval / Northern Virginia Writing Project NVWP / MS 3 E4 George Mason University 4400 University Drive Fairfax, VA 22030</p> <p>Questions? Contact Oaktonwc@gmail.com or Beth.Blankenship@fcps.edu.</p>

The 2012 conference, held on a Friday from 8 am to 1:30 pm, almost doubled the size of the first tutor conference: there were 180 attendees from 18 high schools, one middle school, and one university. Fifteen peer tutors from four area high schools led ten tutor presentations in the morning while directors and administrators attended a full-morning workshop investigating case studies, making strategic action plans, and drafting impact statements. The afternoon included a panel of GMU writing center tutors and NVWP-led workshops. The conference planning committee grew from four to ten FCPS center directors.

2013 "Investing in Leadership: Student-run Writing Centers" episode airs on National Writing Project (NWP) podcast

February 28, 2013

Sponsored by the National Writing Project (NWP)

The National Writing Project (NWP) highlighted the partnership between NVWP and Virginia high school writing centers on its podcast. This episode featured writing project site leaders (Dr. Paul Rogers), teachers (Amber Jensen and Beth Blankenship), school administrator (Ellen Reilly), and peer tutors from Edison and Oakton High Schools. Hosted by NWP's Tanya Baker, the participants discussed student-run writing centers as centers of leadership development and service initiatives for local writing project sites.

Transformation from the Center: The Third Annual Secondary School Writing Center Conference

October 11, 2013 at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA

Sponsored by Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP)

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Transformation from the Center: The 3rd Annual Secondary School Writing Center Conference 2013

Hosted by George Mason University, the Northern Virginia Writing Project,
and Fairfax County Public Schools

Friday, October 11, 2013
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
at George Mason University
Johnson Center

Keynote Speaker: Andrew Jeter

Former Literacy Center Director at Niles West High School (the largest high school literacy center in the U.S.), President of the Chicagoland Organization of Writing, Literacy and Learning Centers, and currently the Research Director for the newly established Ideas Lab. Andrew will also meet with Administrators and Center Directors during the break-out sessions.

Sessions for Student Tutors, Writing Center Directors,
and Secondary School Administrators to include:
Writing Workshops from NVWP Teacher Consultants,
Nuts and Bolts from Writing Center Directors and Tutor Presentations

**Registration is open!
Register by Friday, September 27th**

To learn more and register, go to
<http://nvwp.org/2013/09/05/register-now-for-3rd-annual-secondary-schools-writing-center-conference/>

The third tutor conference nearly doubled again in size with 365 attendees from 37 institutions (29 high schools, two middle schools, six universities) across three states. The program featured 24 tutor presentations led by 41 tutor presenters from six high schools. Andrew Jeter, director of the Niles West High School Literacy Center in Illinois, was the keynote speaker. A panel of current and former high school tutors, directors, and administrators was a highlight, as was a morning strategic planning workshop for administrators and directors.

“A Writing Center in Every FCPS High School,” December 13, 2013

With the momentum FCPS writing centers (18 of 26 high schools in the district had started centers between 2010 and 2013), a team of ten directors developed a proposal that explained what writing centers are and asked for district-level support to fund stipends for directors and formalize Advanced Composition as a tutor training course. Amber Jensen presented the proposal to the district-level FCPS Instructional Services Leadership Team as a first step of collaborative advocacy on behalf of secondary school writing centers.

CAPTA
Amber Jensen,
president

2014

Capital Area Peer Tutoring Association (CAPTA) formed and mission statement adopted, July 2014



Seven high school writing center directors from Northern Virginia (Beth Blankenship, Jenny Goransson, Suzette Henry, Meg Herndon, Alison Hughes, Amber Jensen, and Kim Sloan) and one from Baltimore, Maryland (John Eugene) convened in Fairfax, VA in July to formalize what had existed for three years as an informal network of secondary school writing centers in the region. They established a name and composed a mission statement

for the new organization:

The Capital Area Peer Tutoring Association (CAPTA) exists to build community among secondary school writing and learning center directors, tutors, and partners; promote advocacy for peer-driven programs that transform schools by empowering student leaders; and support development and sharing of local resources for new and existing centers.

Tutor Leadership Summit

September 27, 2014 at Edison High School in Alexandria, VA



Because leadership efforts were focused on formalizing CAPTA as an organization, the team decided not to host a large annual conference in 2014. Instead, they convened a smaller conference on a Saturday morning at Edison High School focusing on developing tutor leadership within writing centers. The program included nine presentations and six roundtable discussions led by

experienced tutors. The event drew 64 tutors from 13 high schools in Virginia.

CAPTA-IWCA Gathering at NCTE

November 20, 2014 at Union Street Pub in Alexandria, VA

Sponsored by the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA)

In conjunction with the NCTE Annual Convention in Washington DC, this event was the official public kickoff of CAPTA, which had 12 member schools by November. The happy hour event was announced on the SSWC-Listserv, and educators from six states (California, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Texas, and Virginia) gathered to socialize and learn about the mission statement and goals of the organization. Directors within and beyond the capital area were invited to participate in CAPTA initiatives, including a mentoring program.

2015 CAPTA Directors' Retreat

January 10, 2015 at Albemarle High School in Charlottesville, VA

Hannah Baran, CAPTA board member, planned and hosted the first CAPTA directors' retreat in 2015. Attended by 20 directors from Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia, the retreat featured four workshop-style discussions on working with tutors, working with faculty and staff, working with the student body, and working with data. The keynote speaker was Dr. Pam Moran, superintendent of Albemarle County Public Schools. Participants also had time to collaborate on their own next steps for their writing centers.

CAPTA constitution signed, January 10, 2015

After drafting organizing documents, including paperwork to apply for 501(c)3 nonprofit status, the first CAPTA Executive Board reviewed and agreed on the proposed constitution as part of the directors' retreat. The founding CAPTA leadership team comprised the following people:

Executive Board Members:

President: Amber Jensen (Edison High School, VA)
Vice President: Beth Blankenship (Oakton High School, VA)
Secretary: Alison Hughes (Centreville High School, VA)
Treasurer: Jenny Goransson (West Springfield High School, VA)
Communications Chair: Kate Hutton (Herndon High School, VA)

At-Large Members:

Hannah Baran (Albemarle High School, VA)
Susan Frenck (Robinson Secondary School, VA)

Tutor Representatives:

Phoenix Jitpaisarnsook (Edison High School, VA)
India Perdue (West Springfield High School, VA)

Position Statement on Secondary School Writing Centers approved by IWCA Board, April 22, 2015

As the secondary school representative on the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) board, Amber Jensen led the initiative to compose and publish a position statement along with other secondary school writing center directors in the country, especially Andrew Jeter and Jaimie Crawford. The document was meant to define what secondary school writing centers are and to advocate for their support. After review and comment by the entire IWCA board, this statement was approved and published on the IWCA website.

CAPTA Connects: A Conference for High School Writing Center Tutors, Directors, and Administrators

October 2, 2015 at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA
In partnership with Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP)



SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE

FOR TUTORS: Tutor Research, Strategies, & Leadership
FOR DIRECTORS: Strategic Planning, Tutor Training, Data & Research, Networking & Resources
FOR ADMINISTRATORS: Supporting & Sustaining Writing Centers; Leveraging Impact Schoolwide

UPCOMING DATES

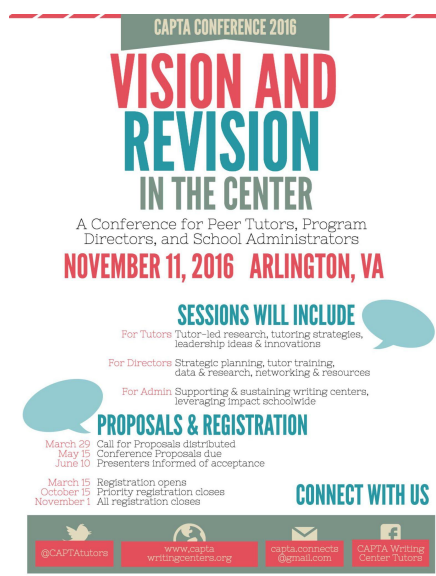
APRIL 15 Call for Proposals Distributed
MAY 23 Proposal Submissions Due
MAY 15 REGISTRATION OPENS

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.CAPTAWRITINGCENTERS.ORG



The first official CAPTA conference welcomed 365 attendees from 36 middle schools, high schools, and colleges from Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington DC. The conference program included 60 tutor-led presentations by 110 tutors from 11 secondary schools and, for the first time, six director-led sessions. A principals' panel led by five administrators from area high schools complemented the administrator/director strand, which featured a collaborative strategic planning session. All attending institutions received a copy of the revised CAPTA Toolkit.

2016 **Vision and Revision in the Center: A Conference for Peer Tutors, Program Directors, and School Administrators**
November 11, 2016 at George Mason University in Arlington, VA
In partnership with Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP)



Dr. Jennifer Wells opened the 2016 CAPTA conference with a keynote speech about writing beliefs, behaviors, and peer tutoring in secondary schools. With 472 attendees from 47 middle schools, high schools, and colleges from 10 states, this conference was evidence of the organization's growth in both numbers and geographical reach. New attendees from Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, and Florida attended for the first time. Over one hundred tutors from 18 institutions across four states facilitated 56 student presentations, while four director presentations rounded out the program.

Travel Grants and Conference Scholarships

To acknowledge the expansion of the organization beyond the Capital Area, and with hopes that modest funding might help more geographically distant members be able to attend the conference, the board voted to offer two travel grants (\$250 each) as well as fifteen student and two director conference registration waivers. Canton High School in Connecticut and Souhegan High School in New Hampshire were the travel grant winners; directors and tutors from Massachusetts and Virginia were awarded the registration waivers.

2017 **Census of Secondary School Writing Centers**
March - October 2017
Sponsored by International Writing Centers Association (IWCA)

Chaired by Jeffrey Austin, IWCA secondary schools representative, the census committee designed and distributed a survey to secondary school writing center directors via the SSWC-Listserv and CAPTA contact lists. With the purpose of conducting sustained, targeted outreach, reimagining professional networks, and producing scholarship that speaks to the needs of the SSWC community, the census collected responses from about 100 directors from 24 states and one international school. Austin and Betsy Roche presented initial findings at the NCTE conference in November; a forthcoming article by Amber Jensen and Heather Barton shares the findings of the 2017 census in more detail.

Tutor Leadership Retreat

August 15-16, 2017 in Madison, VA

Led by CAPTA board member Hannah Baran, with the assistance of Jenny Goransson and Stephanie Passino, this gathering was held at Sevenoaks Retreat Center in Madison, VA over two days. The 18 tutor and director attendees from 4 northern Virginia schools discussed topics of community, growth, equity, professional development, and technology. The itinerary devoted time to both strategic planning and enjoying leadership bonding over s'mores and rock painting.

CAPTA Digital Toolkit published



Middle and High School Writing Centers: A Resource Toolkit

A Publication of The Capital Area Peer Tutoring Association
Updated October 2017

To reflect the growing community of SSWCs and their respective artifacts, and to facilitate distribution of the resource beyond the capital area, the CAPTA board focused on developing a digital version of the CAPTA toolkit. Renee Brown, CAPTA's middle school representative, led the digital publication initiative by curating and organizing resources from a range of CAPTA member schools. This edition was 30 pages and included six phases: planning and proposing; tutor recruitment, selection, and training; program implementation; curriculum integration; school-wide writing initiatives, and gathering evidence for success. Hard copies were given to schools attending the 2017 CAPTA conference.

People, Passion, and Purpose: Sixth Annual Conference for Peer Tutors, Program Directors, and School Administrators

December 8, 2017 at George Mason University in Arlington, VA
In partnership with Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP)

Like the 2016 conference, attendance at the 2017 conference reached maximum venue capacity; there were 478 tutors, directors, and administrators from 55 institutions across seven states. After a keynote delivered by IWCA Secondary Schools Representative Jeffrey Austin and Dr. Christine Modey from Michigan about partnerships between secondary and postsecondary writing centers, the program featured 57 presentations by 114 student tutors from 17 institutions. A college gallery and a tiered sponsorship model brought publishers and postsecondary institutions in as partners with the organization.

SSWCA
Kate Hutton,
president

2018 **Secondary School Writing Centers Association (SSWCA)** formed



By 2017, it was clear that CAPTA's reach had outgrown the greater Washington, DC, region. Vice President Kate Hutton led the revision of the constitution to recognize CAPTA as a national organization. Changes included expanding the board to include six regional representatives. Shifting to a

national organization laid the groundwork for the Secondary School Writing Centers Association's eventual affiliation with IWCA. CAPTA's transition to SSWCA was formally announced at CAPTA's 2017 conference and via the WCenter and SSWC-L listservs.

Founding SSWCA Board members

President: Kate Hutton (Herndon High School, VA)

Vice President: Trisha Callihan (Osborn High School, VA)

Secretary: Stephanie Passino (Hayfield Secondary School, VA)

Treasurer: Susan Frenck (Irving Middle School, VA)

Past President: Amber Jensen (George Mason University, VA)

Regional Representatives:

Capital Area: Joe Golimowski (Kettle Run High School, VA)

Midwest: Jeff Austin (Skyline High School, MI)

Northeastern: Seth Czarnecki (Algonquin High School, MA)

Southeast: Tom Brandt (Berkeley Preparatory School, FL)

Social Media Manager: Kyle Boswell (South Haven High School, MI)

Middle School Representative: Renee Brown (Peters Township, PA)

At-Large Representatives:

Heather Barton (Etowah High School, GA)

Tara McLellan (Charlotte Latin School, NC)

Stacey Waldrup (Crescent Valley High School, OR)

Tutor Representatives:

Colleen Cecil (Herndon High School, VA)

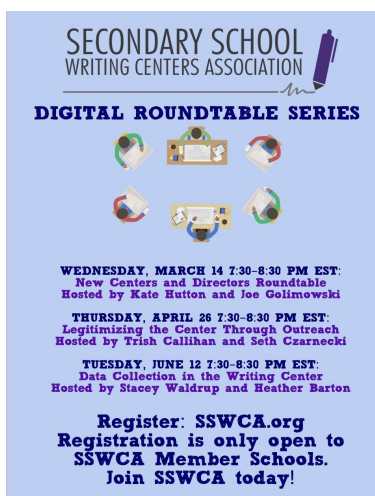
Laura Tutko (Stone Bridge High School, VA)

Digital Roundtable Series established

January 2018

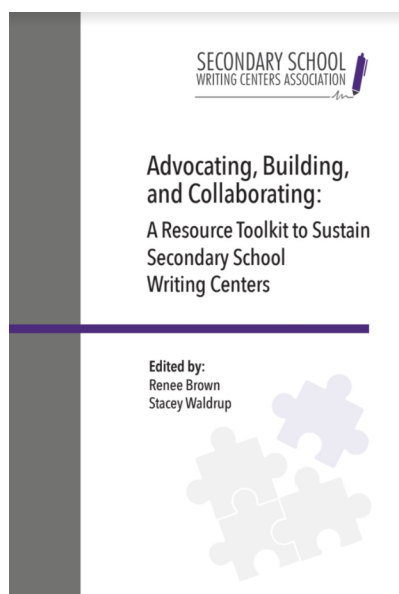
As part of SSWCA's mission to create opportunities for directors and tutors to collaborate across schools, SSWCA established the [Digital Roundtable series](#) in January 2018. SSWCA board members facilitated one-hour-long sessions on topics including tutor leadership, outreach, data collection, and emotional labor for directors and tutors nation-wide.

SSWCA Press formed



When the decision was made to publish a more comprehensive text of resources by and for secondary school directors, the editors of the SSWCA Toolkit, board members Renee Brown and Stacey Hahn, explored publication options. Rich Kent, SSWCA advisory board member, suggested Amazon publishing as a way to enable wide distribution while keeping costs affordable to members of the SSWCA community. The board agreed to move forward with self-publishing the toolkit, giving birth to SSWCA Press.

Advocating, Building, Collaborating: A Resource Toolkit to Sustain Secondary School Writing Centers published, October 2018.



Beginning in March 2018 under the editorship of Renee Brown and Stacey Waldrup, 13 authors from the SSWCA board compiled more than 80 artifacts from over 20 secondary directors across the United States. Nine months later, the toolkit was published on Amazon, with nine chapters and two appendices totaling more than 180 pages presenting ideas and practices in SSWC administration. New additions to this version of the toolkit included a chapter on the work of the SSWC director, chapters on university partnerships and middle-school writing centers, and an appendix on all-subject tutoring centers. Referred to as "The Toolkit," this guide was written for novices and veterans of writing center pedagogy and administration. Hard copies were distributed to member schools who attended the 2018 SSWCA conference. In

the years following, a copy of *Advocating, Building, and Collaborating* could be purchased with a SSWCA membership for an additional \$10 or on Amazon for \$30. As of winter 2022, more than 300 copies had been purchased.

Process and Progress: Seventh Annual Conference for Secondary School Peer Tutors, Program Director, and School Administrators
 November 9-10, 2018 at GMU in Arlington, VA
 In partnership with Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP)



For the first gathering as a national organization, SSWCA welcomed attendees from 59 institutions from 14 states. Once again, SSWCA reached the venue’s capacity with 480 attendees. For the first time, the conference was a two-day event, offering a full day on Friday with 70 tutor presentations as well as director presentations. A half-day “unconference” was held on Saturday morning, focusing on tutor and director publications. This conference welcomed a panel of three keynote speakers - board member Kyle Boswell, and former SSWCA tutors Annie Kelley and Devon Milley - to highlight the impact of middle school, high school, and collegiate writing center work being done on a national level.

2019 SSWCA becomes official **affiliate of the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA)**

Transitioning to a national organization in 2018 created the opportunity for SSWCA to become a formal affiliate of IWCA. In partnership with IWCA President John Nordlof and IWCA Secondary Schools Representative Jeff Austin, Kate Hutton secured SSWCA’s affiliate status. The IWCA Secondary Schools Representative role transitioned from a position elected through IWCA to a position appointed by the SSWCA Board, which solidified the standing of SSWCs in the national organization. As an IWCA affiliate, SSWCA was able to access financial support for its annual conference and amplify voices of SSWC directors in the international community.

IWCA-SSWCA Representative added to SSWCA Board

Once SSWCA became a formal affiliate of IWCA, Dr. Heather Barton was elected as the first IWCA-SSWCA representative. Heather organized the IWCA Special Interest Group session and an IWCA standing session on peer tutoring in Secondary Schools at the NCTE annual convention. Whereas previous NCTE sessions were planned and led by the IWCA vice president—typically a postsecondary writing center director—SSWCA’s inclusion as an affiliate of IWCA made the important shift toward secondary director leaders planning and organizing these sessions at NCTE.

Directors' Regional Retreats

Various dates in summer/fall 2019 in Capital Area, Midwest, Southwest, Southeast, and Northeast regions



In keeping with the mission to build community among, promote advocacy for, and support the development of secondary school writing and peer tutoring centers, Kate Hutton and SSWCA regional representatives Jeffrey Austin, Rebecca Arnst, Tom Brandt, Seth Czarnecki, and Joe Golimowski welcomed directors to attend Regional Director Retreats. The retreats focused on the ways in which writing and peer tutoring centers promote and support disciplinary literacy and writing across the curriculum in our schools. The goal was to create new opportunities for director leadership and engagement within regions.

- 2020 **Spring Forward: Looking Up and Looking Out: Eighth Annual Conference for Secondary School Tutors, Directors, and Administrators**
March 13-14, 2020; planned for Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, VA; moved to a virtual conference due to COVID-19



As SSWCA continued to grow, it became evident that a larger venue and a spring gathering would allow more tutors and directors to attend the annual conference. With that in mind, the 2020 conference was planned for March at the Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, VA. Seventy-two tutor presentations were accepted and prepared, featuring 145 tutors from 19 schools. Conference registration included 467 attendees from 61 institutions. But then, two days before the conference, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic and SSWCA leadership made the heartbreaking decision to cancel the in-person event. Under the leadership of Kate Hutton, the conference was reimaged with virtual

opportunities. Conference presenters were invited to upload their presentation materials and videos to Google Classroom, where attendees could view each other's work. Eleven presentations were selected to be presented live on Zoom in April and May. Additionally, refunds were issued to those who registered. This difficult pivot for the organization and conference planners reflected its resilience and commitment to keeping the community connected despite constraints it could not have imagined or planned for.

Renee Brown,
president

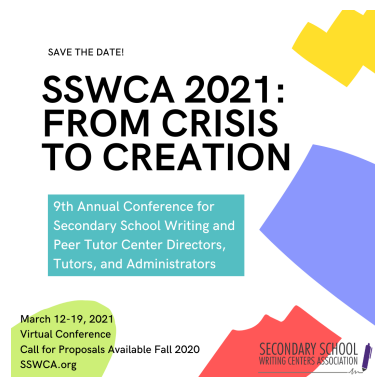
Jensen-Hutton Grant for Emerging Writing Centers established

Amber Jensen and Kate Hutton made an indelible impact on secondary writing centers. As presidents of CAPTA/SSWCA, they advocated for, built up, published scholarship on, and helped sustain writing centers across the nation. In honor of their service, under the leadership of president Renee Brown, the SSWCA board created the Jensen-Hutton Grant for Emerging Centers. Knowing that emerging centers are often in need of extra support, this grant provides financial support so that those who might not otherwise have been able to join the SSWCA community can do so to the benefit of their center. Recipients of the 2020 Jensen-Hutton Grant (free SSWCA membership and \$250) were Roseanne Simone from St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville, VA and Stacey Hahn from Meridian High School in Boise, ID.

Sibling Centers started

Sibling Centers was a project proposed by SSWCA tutor representative Nikko Curtis from Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock, AR. Member schools registered and were matched as partners, sometimes by region, sometimes by size, sometimes for other reasons. The sibling schools were able to work together, often over great distances, to train together, to learn together, and even to present together at the SSWCA conference.

2021 From Crisis to Creation: Ninth Annual Conference for Secondary School Writing and Peer Tutor Center Directors, Tutors, and Administrators March 12-20, 2021; virtual

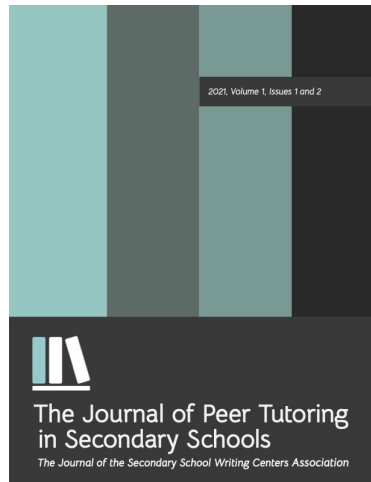


Still in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic, SSWCA supported directors and tutors by hosting a virtual conference. It consisted of 57 pre-recorded video presentations available on Flipgrid for asynchronous viewing. Additionally, there were 18 live Zoom presentations for attendees to join. An overwhelming 670 attendees from 55 different institutions coast-to-coast participated. Dr. Alexandria Peary recorded a keynote address speaking to mindfulness in writing center work and leading viewers through several exercises.

SSWCA Inclusivity, Equity, and Accessibility Statement for Secondary School Writing and Peer Tutoring Centers approved by SSWCA Board April 17, 2021

Spearheaded by past president Kate Hutton, this statement is a living document to which the entire SSWCA board contributed. SSWCA's intent with this statement was to establish SSWCA's position on writing and peer tutoring centers as inclusive spaces. The statement begins with an explicit position and then offers directors and tutors a series of questions for reflection about their center's current positions and practices and how they might evolve.

The Journal of Peer Tutoring in Secondary Schools (JPTSS) first volume published Spring 2021 and Fall 2021



The Journal of Peer Tutoring in Secondary Schools was developed as the scholarly home of SSWCA: a peer-reviewed journal publishing research about secondary school peer tutoring. The publication's mission is to celebrate student and professional voices and contribute to writing center theory and practice through scholarly discourse. The first two issues (1.1 and 1.2) comprised one research article, two practitioner articles, two book reviews, two transcripts from past conference addresses, three tutor articles, one Voices from the Center column, and eight profiles of SSWCA member centers. The founding editorial board consisted of Dr. Amber Jensen, Jenny Goransson, Dr.

Heather Barton, Dr. Susan Frenck (all of whom were also on the SSWCA board), and undergraduate editorial assistants from Brigham Young University.

Boston Area Writing Center Initiative (BAWCI)

2021-2022

The Boston Area Writing Center Initiative (BAWCI) was spearheaded by board member Seth Czarnecki. It was a partnership between SSWCA, 826 Boston, and Northeastern University. Its mission was to provide mentorship and support for teachers to create student-led writing centers within the unique context of their schools in the Boston Public School system. While this project was never fully implemented, it laid a foundation for similar programs to blossom when there is interest.

2022

Revolutionary Partnerships: The Tenth Annual SSWCA Conference

March 11-12, 2022; planned for Boston, MA; moved to a virtual conference
Sponsored by the National Writing Project (NWP)

Stacey Hahn,
president



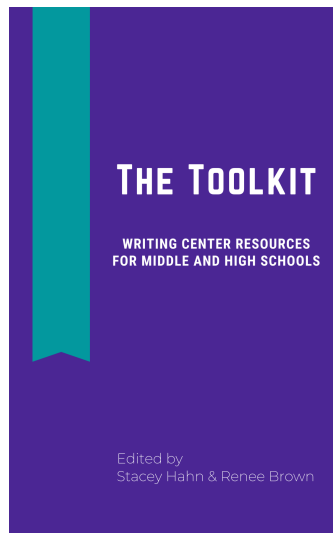
Slated to be the first conference outside of the capital area, Revolutionary Partnerships shifted to virtual due to ongoing COVID-19 circumstances. Even so, the online platform allowed 500 attendees to interact in real time with presenters and other participants. Revolutionary Partnerships hosted 42 synchronous presentations, including 10 featured presentations recorded for asynchronous viewing. Dr. Allen Brizee's keynote address guided attendees in considering how they could become more civically engaged and transform themselves and their centers through such partnerships.

Presenter at Another Conference Grants; Connection Grants; Student Impact Scholarships

Fall 2022

As part of SSWCA's mission the SSWCA board created and approved two grants and one scholarship. The Presenter at Another Conference grant offers funding to individuals from SSWCA member schools who have been accepted to present at another conference about SSWC/peer tutoring topics. The grant of up to \$250 will offset costs associated with travel, lodging, etc. in order to make presenting more accessible to leaders in our community. The Connection Grant of up to \$100 supports members in meeting up with other centers or center-hopefuls in their area to share experiences, generate ideas, and foster community. The Student Impact Scholarship recognizes seniors in high school who have gone above and beyond in sustaining and improving their center community by awarding two \$500 scholarships.

2023 *The Toolkit: Writing Center Resources for Middle and High Schools* published



When the world of education shifted so drastically because of the COVID pandemic, among other things, a need for a second edition of the SSWC toolkit seemed important. Stacey and Renee decided to rework this book to provide updated and wider-ranging resources for everyone currently doing and hoping to do this work. This expanded edition added six new chapters: logistics, tutor training courses, learning centers, specific populations, online tutoring, and networking and publishing. It also included digital copies of select resources to make this toolkit the most useful and accessible version yet. Along with the editors, fifteen authors from the SSWCA board and member schools shared their experiences and wisdom.

Writing at the Center: SSWCA and NVWP Conference

March 17-18, 2023 at George Mason University in Arlington, VA

In partnership with the Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP)



Writing at the Center: SSWCA & NVWP will be the first in-person conference since 2018. To continue to support SSWCA's growing community, the conference committee opted for a hybrid conference with participants also able to attend via an online platform. Sessions include in-person and virtual options with recorded feature presentations for future watching. Lisa Zimmerelli will be the keynote speaker.

