



# Southern Discourse in the Center

A Journal of Multiliteracy and Innovation

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TITLE: From the Editor  
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VOLUME/ISSUE: *SDC* 22(1 & 2)  
PAGES: 8–9  
PUBLISHED: Spring, 2018

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*Southern Discourse in the Center: A Journal of Multiliteracy and Innovation* (*SDC*) is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal published twice per year by the [Southeastern Writing Center Association](http://www.southeasternwritingcenter.org) (SWCA, [www.southeasternwritingcenter.org](http://www.southeasternwritingcenter.org)). As a forum for practitioners in writing centers, speaking centers, digital centers, and multiliteracy centers, *SDC* publishes articles from administrators, consultants, and other scholars concerned with issues related to training, consulting, labor, administration, theory, and innovative practices.

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## From the Editor

KAREN HEAD



The editorial staff for SDC is pleased to bring you this double issue. You may have been wondering what happened to the fall issue, and that is a fair question. One of the challenges of making SDC a peer-reviewed journal is that it is much more difficult for scholars to reach accepted status. While we still have room for articles on practice and reflection, our research articles are held to a much higher standard. We simply didn't have enough of those articles ready to go to print in the fall, so we had to wait.

The good news is that this issue was definitely worth the wait!

Cassandra Book's article "Is This Your First Visit?: User-Experience and Writing Centers' Online Presence," presents her extensive user-experience study of the affordances and challenges of using traditional scheduling and client management tools in an online environment. As more of our centers move to include online tutoring, studies like these will provide an important foundation for critical considerations of how to best implement and integrate new systems with older systems.

In "Recalibrating the Hiring Line: One Center's Changing Practices," Mike Mattison considers diversity and hiring practices. Such considerations are particularly important because reflecting the diversity of our clients is a critical part of delivering them the best possible tutoring experience. As a side note, I was personally delighted about how Mattison deftly incorporates lines from one of my favorite Bruce Hornsby songs—bravo for the compelling framing mechanism!

Diversity continues to be the focus for Bailey McAlister's "Non-Binary Gender Inclusivity in the Writing Center: A Review of the Literature." From the importance of being inclusive to making our centers safe spaces to helping everyone on our campuses understand the importance of using appropriate language (we are increasingly asked to weigh in about the singular they), writing centers are once again in the vanguard for demonstrating and sharing best practices.

Our final peer-reviewed article, S. Thomas Wilkes' "A Conceptual Approach to Addressing Black Talk in the Writing Center," rounds out an issue squarely founded on diversity issues. The argument for fostering critical language awareness in our centers is well-considered and should be a cornerstone of our pedagogical designs toward offering sessions that address identity and self-concepts for our clients—and for ourselves.

Our Back to the Center feature takes us on a tour of the Doctoral Support Center at Texas Tech. Our Consultant Insight features discuss the connections of writing centers and libraries and course embedded tutoring. Finally, our Book Review feature examines Geller and Eodice's *Working with Faculty Writers*.

Extra thanks to John Edgar Browning, Peter Fontaine, James Howard, Joshua King, Leah Misemer, Chelsea Murdock, and Julie Weng for their editorial assistance, as well as to Hillary Yeager for last-minute layout assistance.

They say all good things must come to an end, and so it goes. It has been my honor to be your SDC editor for the past three years. Please help me welcome Scott Pleasant and Devon Ralston as your new co-editors. Send them your important work. I can't wait to read it!