

## **Being a Good Two-Year College Neighbor: Writing Centers and the Community**

Community college writing centers are uniquely poised in higher education to provide flexible literacy and community-building opportunities to the neighborhoods and cities in which they reside. In fact, this panel discussion posits that higher education institutions—in particular, those that are publicly funded—have an obligation to be a “good neighbor” and make available alternative learning environments for people in the community. As the need for writing skills and abilities transcends traditional educational programs, writing centers can be the first to explore how to be a “good neighbor.”

In this panel discussion, participants will be introduced to writing centers that have reached into their surrounding communities in multiple ways. Participants will be provided with an overview of established and newly-developing theories and research that ground such writing center outreach. We will review strategies for assessing community and institutional assets/needs, community partnership ethics, negotiating institutional politics, generating opportunities for tutors to create innovative partnerships, and research possibilities.

Participants will also have the option to join a writing center outreach network that will emerge from this workshop.