



WRITING CENTER

To the SWCA Certification Committee:

I am writing to introduce my application for the SWCA Certification Pilot. I have directed the Writing Center at Athens State University since May 2015, after it was reestablished in the library as part of a writing-focused QEP. My emphasis during these two years as Director has been to establish the Writing Center as a space for supporting student growth and excellence, create ties with faculty, and implement programming that promotes the core values of writing and community.

As a teacher who instructed composition for a decade, but pursued my interests in cultural studies, nineteenth-century transatlantic literature, and theories of visuality for my formal graduate work, I am interested in participating in this pilot. I am particularly interested in any guidance the committee is able to offer on how to ensure the students who work at the Writing Center are learning the most relevant scholarship on literacy, writing studies, and tutoring. The academic culture that many students bring with them to this campus can be daunting to redirect, as they are inured to underachieving and seek out passive approaches to learning. I have worked to establish a culture of engagement and collaboration by inviting experts from various disciplines to consultant meetings, including faculty and staff from sociology, biology, public health, and academic technology instruction. Additionally, I have worked closely with an English faculty member and librarian to incorporate multimodal approaches to research, writing, and visual studies, with the support of Writing Center consultants who learn how to adapt their work to new rhetorical situations and media.

The library has been a crucial partner in aiding the work of the Writing Center. Together we co-sponsor a workshop/webinar series, run a Faculty Writing Retreat, and collaborate on various projects. The Faculty Writing Retreat especially has helped to create a collaborative atmosphere for academic work that I am confident will translate to more faculty support and recognition of the value of the resources offered by the Writing Center and the library.

The SWCA has been a vital lifeline for showing the significance of the work of the Writing Center and for providing professionalization opportunities to consultants that emphasize the importance of continual improvement. Consultants have traveled to two SWCA-AL symposia with me to present, and I have been able to present at SWCA with colleagues and a consultant.

I appreciate this opportunity to receive feedback that will improve the work of the Writing Center. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joy C. Bracewell".

Joy Bracewell, Ph.D.
Writing Center Director