

WPA-GO WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2025

WPA-GO, proudly sponsored by the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA), is an organization comprised of graduate students, allies, and mentors who are dedicated to supporting graduate students in their preparation for Writing Program administration. We seek to strengthen mentoring and networking connections between graduate students and professional WPAs as well as provide opportunities for awards, organizational service, and professional development.

Our Winter 2025 newsletter includes committee updates, an interview with the outreach and accessibility committees, as well as professional development updates.

Committee Updates

Accessibility Committee

- Kelsey Hawkins and Hunter Whitt, Co-Chairs of WPA-GO's Accessibility Committee (AC) drafted a committee handbook in order to make the labor of service work more transparent to incoming AC members. We will pilot the handbook during the 2025-2026 academic year to assess how effectively it improves the accessibility of the AC's labor and expectations. After the pilot run, Kelsey and Hunter hope to adapt the handbook based on their experiences and make it available to WPA-GO's other committee chairs. We hope that this project helps sustain a culture of accessibility across the organization.
- Additionally, Kelsey and Hunter have undertaken efforts to increase accessibility within WPA-GO's Leadership Council (LC) by surveying members for accessibility needs and engagement preferences. We hope to establish a regular practice of identifying and constellating accessibility across each new iteration of the LC.
- Lastly, Kelsey and Hunter drafted general Accessibility Guidelines for the LC handbook to provide guidance for accessible communication and document design across the organization.

Committee Updates

Diversity Committee

- The Diversity Committee has been thinking about the relationship between generative Artificial Intelligence and diversity in language and culture. We are currently planning the Diversity Spring Semester Event, which will consist of a Reading Group or Diversity Speaker. The event will center around the impact of AI for students from diverse backgrounds and multilingual students. An announcement will be shared through WPA-GO's email listserv, so stay tuned for more information!
- We are happy to announce that Andrea Hernandez, a member of WPA-GO's Diversity Committee, will be presenting at CCCC's this year with Trish Serviss, Ana D. Castellón, Casey Manogue, and Sasha Osorio!
- Presentation Title: What Are Students Doing With Sources Now? How Undergraduate Source Use Has Evolved Since the Original Citation Project.

Outreach Committee

- The Outreach Committee met for the first time this semester! We got to know each other and also began brainstorming ideas for a Graduate Research Symposium in the Spring. If you would like to submit ideas for a potential theme, please click this link to contribute: [Outreach Committee Survey on Graduate Research Series](#) The Outreach Committee is looking forward to meeting together again and beginning to plan the symposium with help from members of other WPA-GO committees!

Digital Presence Committee

- Nariman Hawily designed WPA-GO's biannual newsletter to help keep members informed of upcoming changes and developments to the organization.

An Interview with the Accessibility Committee

Kelsey Hawkins, Co-Chair of the Accessibility Committee, discusses the important accessibility work she does for WPA-GO and beyond.

Nariman: What does accessibility mean to you?

Kelsey: To me, accessibility is the sustained practice of building relationships, communities, and coalitions which seek to expand the parameters of belonging in our various academic, professional, and personal contexts. Rather than manifesting a checklist for inclusive teaching or an endpoint realized by an (as yet) nonexistent utopian future, accessibility is an orientation to the realities we inhabit, a way of being and living in a shared world.

Nariman: What motivated you to join the accessibility committee?

Kelsey: I wanted to join the accessibility committee primarily because I was seeking community with other graduate students and gWPA's. It's easy to become atomized and insulated in our respective institutions, especially when our positionalities relegate us to the margins or subalterns. I think that it's important that we create opportunities for identification, recognition, and solidarity. The accessibility committee offered that opportunity to me as I was struggling to enculturate into grad work while negotiating the disabling structures of the academy.

Nariman: How has joining the accessibility committee informed your work as a graduate student?

Kelsey: By spending more sustained time in community with other disabled grad students, I've transformed my commitment to accessibility from the theoretical to the material. Building a culture of accessibility depends on relationality; accessibility (as I define it) cannot emerge through solitary action. I've begun to care less about "researching" disability and more about embodying and negotiating disability in real time with real people.

Nariman: What do you wish more people understood about accessibility?

Kelsey: I wish more people understood that accessibility can be an act of joy, love, resistance, and liberation. Accessibility offers us an alternative to the oppressive structures and systems which organize and discipline all of our lives. Taking up that alternative, while complex and laborious and messy, can be life-affirming and endlessly gratifying.

An Interview with the Outreach Committee

Helena Mazzarella and Carina Shi, Co-Chairs of the Outreach Committee, discuss the impact of the work they do within WPA-GO.

Nariman: How would you describe what the outreach committee does?

Helena & Carina: The Outreach Committee connects graduate students interested in WPA work. In creating opportunities for graduate student connections, we hope to foster personal and professional relationships among writing studies scholars and students in different career stages. The main goal of the Outreach Committee is to organize events sharing scholarly and practical insights on writing program administration, such as a speaker series and graduate research symposium.

Nariman: Can you tell me about the connections you've made and/or the relationships you've built through joining the outreach committee?

Helena & Carina: We have met fellow graduate students from various institutions and graduate programs who are similarly interested in WPA work.

Nariman: How has joining the outreach committee informed your work as a graduate student?

Helena & Carina: Though we have both only been a part of the Outreach Committee since the beginning of the semester, we feel that it has highlighted the importance of building relationships with other graduate students. Thus far, we have only had one meeting as a committee; however, in that short period of time, we generated a lot of great ideas about the Graduate Research Symposium we plan to hold in the Spring. Beyond planning for our symposium, we also had an opportunity to talk with one another about our different graduate program requirements and our independent research. Having the chance to talk with each other about our own programs and studies paralleled some of the connections we are hoping the Outreach Committee can help cultivate in the coming months.

Professional Development Updates

Conference Presentations

- Nariman Hawily, Taylor Dickson, Kelsey Hawkins recently co-presented “Constellating Peer Mentorship and Sustainable gWPA Labor: A Dialogue with WPA-GO” at the Council for Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) conference with WPA-GO member Ethan Voss.
- Nariman Hawily also presented “Connection and Disconnection: Peer Tutors’ Experiences in Hybrid Writing Center Spaces at the International Writing Centers Association conference.
- Taylor Dickson will present “Documenting ‘Righteous Rage’ and Joy in Solidarity ‘Post’ Pandemic” at Rhetoric Society of America 2026.
- Durga Bhusal will present “Reimagining First-Year Composition: Mapping Students’ Literacy Histories as Digital Bricoleurs in a Decolonial Rhetorical Ecology” at CCCC 2026.
- Helena Mazzarella will present “Dual Positions and Unique Perspectives: A Survey of Tutor-Instructors’ Engagement with Student Writing” at CCCC 2026.

Publications

- Nariman Hawily is co-authoring an article for *The Peer Review* that will be published in spring 2026.
- Durga Bhusal is co-authoring a book chapter that will be published at the end of 2026.