2nd Annual North Texas Community College

"Write to Work" Conference

Preparing Students for Graduation
and Meaningful Jobs
in Chosen Careers

Friday, June 21, 2019

Mountain View College

4849 W. Illinois Avenue

Dallas, Texas 75211

B149

8:30am-5:00pm

THE PEN IS OUR POWER!
ENHANCING WRITING

Quality
Enhancement
Plan

Mountain View College
DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NORTH TEXAS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
CONSORTIUM

TIME   EVENT   **LOCATION: B 149**

8:30AM
Arrival and Refreshments

Pick up your name badge and conference packet, and enjoy refreshments provided by the Kevin Williams Writing Lounge at Mountain View College.

8:45AM
Welcome

Leonard Garrett, Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management, Mountain View College

9:00AM
60x30TX: Writing to Work with Impact & Innovations

Heather Marsh, Senior Director, Academic Planning and Policy, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Executive Director, Texas Higher Education Foundation

In her dual roles, Marsh oversees coordinated efforts to raise awareness and financial support for the state's higher education plan – 60x30TX.

Heather is passionate about seeing Texans from all backgrounds reach their learning potential, and as an advocate for 60x30TX, Heather continues her commitment to student success as she works to make higher education a possibility for every Texan. Previously, she served as the Dean of Resource Development at Mountain View College, where she led program design and funding efforts that resulted in several student-centered, innovative initiatives. These included a STEM PALs 'near-peer tutoring' program, an Academic Center for Writing, and one of only two 3D immersion laboratories in Texas. Earlier in her career, she served as the Vice President of Development for Texans Can, a statewide network of charter schools serving high-risk youth. There, she guided the organization's expansion and succeeded in opening five new schools as well as a model Early Childhood Development Center.

Ms. Marsh approaches the art of fundraising and program development with an unwavering commitment to excellence, accountability, and achievement. She holds an M.B.A. from the University of Dallas and a B.F.A. from Southwest Texas State University.

TIME   EVENT   **LOCATION: B 149**

10:00AM   **Break**

10:15AM   **Understanding Job and Skill Demands for the Future**

Lorena (Lori) Knight, Education Specialist, LMCI Training and Development Division, Texas Workforce Commission

After working for several years in the field of academics (in various positions from a K-12 Substitute Teacher, to an Adjunct Professor, to full time staff support positions) Knight decided to focus instead on training Educators, Educational Administration and support staff, parents, and students in an effort to better help students make informed career choices and prepare for college successfully. In her current position, she also has the unique opportunity of creating and editing the materials used by all audiences specific to helping students navigate the process of educational goals and planning, career exploration, and the college selection process, as well as ensuring students gain a well-developed understanding of how educational choices relate to, and can affect, long-term career goals and aspirations.

11:15AM   **Break**

11:30AM   **Lunch and Guest Speaker**

"The Whoopee War"

Paul Benson, Instructor of English, Mountain View College

From his beginning in 1965 as a teacher in the Freedom Schools of rural Alabama run by Tuskegee Institute to his appointment as Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities' Institute Slavery and the Constitution at the Library of Congress in 2018, Paul Benson has dedicated his career to enriching the lives of others through education. Winner of four national teaching awards, Dr. Paul Benson is a long-time Professor of Humanities at Mountain View College in Dallas, Texas.

TIME   12:30PM-1:15PM   **LOCATION**

Five Years of First Year Composition: A Librarian Reflects

B Building Room 1

Susan Whitmer, Instruction Librarian, Texas Woman's University

This presentation is a reflection of an instruction librarian's first five years of teaching one-shot information literacy classes to First-Year Composition (FYC) courses in higher education. It is critical for the academic success of first-year students to develop information literacy skills: how to locate quality information, how to evaluate information, and how to ethically use information. New instruction librarians, who may be knowledgeable about information literacy, may not have the teaching skills to share this information. Instruction librarians are generally given only a one-hour, one-shot library class in a semester-long composition course to teach information literacy skills. Based on five years of trial and error teaching information literacy to FYC students, the author has created a flexible program that engages students, faculty, and librarians. In addition to exploring challenges and solutions of teaching information literacy to FYC, the author provides information on how to collect assessment data by creating a Learning Outcomes Project based on Kohl and Wilson's Rubric to measure the quality of cited references. The value of information literacy instruction is difficult to measure. However, the goal of this paper is to prove that information literacy instruction is intimately connected to student success as measured by retention, GPA, and graduation.

The Honors College: An Overview of the Honors College at MVC

B Building Room 2

Jonathon York, Professor of Government, Mountain View College

This is an overview of the development and implementation of the Mountain View Honors College. Topics include its alignment with the Core Values of Mountain View College as well as the basic characteristic of an Honors College as defined by the National Collegiate Honors Council. Special attention will be placed on the distinct components of the Honors College and its integration of existing programs to provide multiple pathways for honors students to pursue academic excellence.

Writing Resources at the "Write to Work" College

B Building Room 3

Luke Story, Director, the MVC Academic Center for Writing, Mountain View College

Learn about writing resources available to engage your students, colleagues, institution, and community. Explore how to meet your students where they are and engage them using classroom assignments, activities, and discussions.

TIME   1:20PM-2:05PM   **LOCATION**

Say It With Stories

B Building Room 1

Paul Benson, Instructor of English, Mountain View College

The point of this presentation is to stress the vital importance of encouraging students to write using stories, examples, illustrations and anecdotes. One of biggest challenges for all writing teachers is to help students write with greater specificity.

Lean/Flow in Academe & the Workplace

B Building Room 2

Jonathon York, Professor of Government, Mountain View College

This presentation is intended for an audience of faculty colleagues, specifically those colleagues who find themselves overwhelmed with material, including backlogs of written assignments such as the presenter has experienced in the deployment of writing intensive course sections. It introduces a tool set for re-framing course components in terms of their relation as costs to the overall value of an individual course. In short, this presentation focuses on the creative use of data to drive instructional decisions that will better serve the workplace.

Write to Work: The Student Perspective

B Building Room 3

Brooke Bolesta, Writing Center Specialist, Mountain View College; *with* **Dan Macias**, Writing Center Specialist, Mountain View College

The experiences and journeys of two MVC students as they navigate through academic and professional obstacles using the Write to Work initiative. This includes personal backgrounds and a recounting of events that lead to benefiting from writing and eventually giving back as tutors at the Academic Center for Writing.

TIME   2:10PM-2:55PM   **LOCATION**

Ready, Set, Co-Req!

Alicia Hinojosa, Learning Framework Faculty and Learning Community Team Member, Mountain View College; *with* **Camille Raspante**, English Faculty, Mountain View College

This session will provide anecdotal experiences/discoveries from our first attempt at implementing the co-requisite model within a learning community. From conception through realization to implementation, these first experiences led to some re-thinking and re-working of our initial strategies in order to improve the model for better student success.

B Building Room 1

The Paradox of AI in Academic and Workplace Writing Mythologies

Scott Powers, Writing Instructional Specialist, Mountain View College

With AI prevalence in recent news events, this presentation questions the roles of academic writing and computer-reader (AI) technology in evaluating suitability for career entry pathways, from academia to workplace. Discussed are myths of academic applications to workplace relevance and the demise of linguistic dexterity to predictive-text technology infiltration.

B Building Room 2

They Can See It, But Can They Write It?

Joseph Collier, English Professor, Mountain View College

Many times students can tell you how to work an app on their phone or how to cook/make a meal; however, they struggle when it comes to putting their thoughts and ideas onto paper. Students struggle with this because they often don't know how to put their thoughts onto paper.

B Building Room 3

TIME **3:00PM-3:45PM**   LOCATION

The Best Career Via Critical Thinking

Ron Stein, Education Learning Framework Professor, Mountain View College; *with* **Vincent Giglio,** Political Science Professor, Mountain View College

Presenters will provide an understanding of the challenges for today's students finding a meaningful career. Specific obstacles that limit a student's ability to gain a meaningful career will also be presented and discussed. A critical thinking framework created by Dr. Richard Paul of the Foundation for Critical Thinking will be introduced. Open ideas will be shared with the goal to help instructors use the framework to further student's critical thinking abilities and meaningful employment.

B Building Room 1

A Corpus for Analyzing Sentiments for Writing

Jason Schneider, Writing Specialist/Adjunct Professor, Mountain View College

Web scraping of students' written reviews are collected from ratemyprofessors.com to gauge students' attitude for writing in the DCCCD community. A linguistic analysis is conducted with the computer language called R that is commonly used by academics for statistical research and by linguists for quantitative methods in corpus linguistics.

B Building Room 2

The QEP Past and Going Forward: Institutionalizing a College Initiative

Geoff Grimes, Professor of English, Mountain View College

The Mountain View College Quality Enhancement Plan focused on improving student writing to improve student graduation rates. With the QEP completed, the college has institutionalized essential components of the plan to improve and increase student writing and to nurture a culture of writing throughout the entire college community.

B Building Room 3

TIME   EVENT   **LOCATION: B 149**

4:00pm   ## Plenary Workshop and Wrap-Up

Standardizing "Write to Work" in Higher Education: An Opening Dialogue

Geoff Grimes, Professor of English, Mountain View College; *with* **Luke Story**, Director, the MVC Academic Center for Writing, Mountain View College

The "Write to Work" Conference is focused on providing you with inspiration and ideas you can put into action in your classroom at your institution. In this interactive open forum, we ask participants to share their "takeaways" from the general and breakout sessions and ways they will implement strategies to prepare students for graduation and meaningful jobs in their chosen careers.