

Carolinas WPA Meeting in the Middle
Friday, May 23, 2014
UNC Charlotte's Center City Campus (RM 1104)
Charlotte, NC
9:30am-4:00pm

Theme: Working Conditions and Writing Instruction

A multitude of factors affect the professional achievements and satisfaction of those who teach writing. Funding is an obvious limitation faced by most, if not all, of those who administer or work in writing programs. Given that funding will, most likely, continue to fall short of what it should be, we would do well to pool our ideas and learn from each other as we consider how to make the best use of limited resources. This year's Meeting in the Middle will provide a space to share ideas and discuss strategies for bettering working environments for teachers of writing.

Featured Speaker and Conference Overview

We're pleased that Dr. Nancy Penrose, a Carolinas WPA alumnus from North Carolina State University, has agreed to spend the morning with us. Penrose is the author of "Professional Identity in a Contingent-Labor Profession: Expertise, Autonomy, Community in Composition Teaching," which appeared in *WPA* 35.2 (2012). She will share insights gleaned from a survey of writing instructors at NCSU and lead us in discussions about how to foster a sense of professional identity and community among teachers of writing.

Conference Agenda

- 9:30 am: Meet and Greet (coffee available)
- 10:00 am: Welcome and Announcements
- 10:15am: **Dr. Nancy Penrose**—Presentation and Discussions
- 12:00 pm: In-house Luncheon
- 1:00 pm: Working Groups Session 1—Topics include Program Challenges, Professional Development Opportunities, Curriculum Development Opportunities, and Program Orientation
- 1:30 pm: Working Groups Session 2—Move to a new topic/table
- 2:00 pm: Working Groups Session 3—Move to another topic/table
- 2:30 pm: School Groups Discussion/Planning
- 3:00 pm: Large Group Discussion
- 3:30 pm: Closing Remarks and Announcements