

# *Call for Proposals – WPAs as Responders*

February 13, 2015 | Meeting in the Middle at UNC Charlotte Center City Building,  
320 E. 9th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202 | <http://centercity.uncc.edu/>

***\*Proposal deadline: Monday, February 2, 2015***

*Featured Speaker and Overview*—**Nikki Caswell, East Carolina University | The Role of Emotions within Response Practices**

Nikki Caswell is an assistant professor of English and director of university writing centers at East Carolina University. Her research focuses on writing assessment, emotions, and writing centers and has been published in the *Journal of Writing Assessment*, *Forum*, and *In Progress*. She's currently working on a book-length study, *Working Lives of New Writing Center Directors* with Jackie Grutsch McKinney and Rebecca Jackson. When she isn't working, Nikki can be found running full and half marathons at Disney.

As writers and teachers of writing, responding to writing permeates our personal and professional lives. Nikki's interactive presentation considers how emotions inform our response practices and patterns. We'll also consider what an "objective" stance may or may not offer us as responders. What do we lose as teachers when we push our emotions aside to "objectively" respond to student writing? What do we gain when we embrace emotions as a component of response?

Carolinas Writing Program of Administrators is accepting proposals for its Ninth Annual Spring Conference, Meeting in the Middle. We encourage proposals that allow participants to present **conversation starters**. We will organize small breakout groups based on proposals so those presenting can work through their issues, topics, situations with attendees. We encourage proposals that focus on something at your institution that is causing an emotional response from you as teachers or as WPAs who support teachers.

*Conference Format*—The format of the conference will encourage full engagement of participants from a broad variety of institutions and programs. We will mix small, working group discussions with a larger presentation by our featured speaker. Proposals will be accepted pending space.

Proposals – We invite proposals from individuals or groups from schools across the Carolinas. Each proposal should be **no more than 500 words** and should contain the following:

- A brief description of an issue, topic, situation you are currently responding to or one you envision responding to
- A sentence or two about how a conversation on this issue, topic, situation will benefit you and others

Provide the names and contact information (email, phone, professional affiliation) for each person associated with your proposal. **Be sure to title your proposal** and submit it via email to Tracy Ann Morse ([morset@ecu.edu](mailto:morset@ecu.edu)) by **8am, Monday, February 2, 2015.**

Titles and authors of accepted proposals will be included on the conference schedule as formal presentations or contributions. We hope this will open up travel funding for all participants. **NOTE: You do not need to present to attend the conference, but if presenting will help you secure funding, we hope you will consider submitting a proposal either individually or with colleagues from your institution.**

Registration and Cost – The registration price of \$40.00 includes lunch and the opportunity to bring a guest for free. **Registration is open. The registration deadline is Thursday, February 5, 2015.**

Questions or Comments? – Contact Tracy Ann Morse at [morset@ecu.edu](mailto:morset@ecu.edu).