



16th Annual Fall Carolinas Writing Program Administrators Conference

September 11-13, 2023

Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC ([Directions](#))

\$220/\$210 (includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals)

- **Proposal deadline: 11:59PM Friday, August 25, 2023**
- **Registration deadline: 11:59PM Monday, August 28, 2023**

Homecoming: Finding a Place for Renewal in the Profession

What does it mean to renew ourselves in the context of our professions? In some ways, it seems as though the pandemic is mostly behind us. What does it mean, then, for us to find our way back "home," especially when home has changed so much over the last three years? More importantly, when we have changed--if we are different--then the places we abide in are different, too. How do we relate to the homes we've made and inhabited, or that we're trying to find? How do we reinvent home as needed? How do we make sure it's a space that is

comfortable and invigorating for ourselves, our colleagues, and our students? This retreat seeks to consider the ways our pedagogical practices and approaches have changed in the face of radical times. How do we meet our students in these new commonplaces, and how do we renew ourselves, too?

Conference Schedule and Format. The conference begins at 5:00 pm on Monday, September 11, and concludes at 10:00 am on Wednesday, September 13. Ashley Holmes's Monday evening plenary session will be followed by a full day Tuesday of workshops and presentations for and by writing teachers and program administrators. Non-tenure track members and attendees are invited to gather to talk shop and make connections during the NTT Network portion of the retreat. Angela Mitchell and Jan Reiman, both from UNCC, will convene that group. Unscripted time will be available, too, on the beautiful mountaintop of Wildacres Retreat, with a closing session Wednesday morning. All meals are provided.

Wildacres Retreat is a low-tech, informal setting conducive to relaxing, collaborating, and learning with friends and colleagues across the Carolinas. We welcome teams or solo participants from across our region.

Monday Evening Speaker and Tuesday Workshop Leader: Ashley Holmes, Georgia State University

Taking Root: Inspiration and Renewal through Place-Based Teaching and Program Administration

(How) can we reconcile our sense of home, place, and identity in the profession with the myriad changes we have experienced personally and professionally over the last few years? This opening talk and follow-up workshop invites teachers and administrators to reflect on our relationship to the places we work and live, and the communities where students learn and grow. Participants will explore how we might leverage our locations to develop more rooted connections to the shared places we find ourselves, situating this conversation within our responsibilities to support diverse, equitable, and inclusive experiences for all. Building on a "learning on location" framework, we will consider how place-based approaches to our work in higher education may open opportunities for newly energized content and wonderfully unpredictable experiences. Drawing inspiration and renewal from our shared experiences in retreat at Wild Acres, our work together provides a fresh space for envisioning new ways to take root at our home campuses.

Ashley Holmes is an associate professor of English and the Director of the Writing Across the Curriculum Program at Georgia State University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in composition theory and pedagogy, research methods, public and visual rhetoric, writing program administration, and digital writing and production. Holmes's recent research explores student writing beyond the university, best practices for writing programs, and

teaching writing for social change. Her forthcoming book *Learning on Location: Place-Based Education for Diverse Learners* provides a framework for location-based learning and explores the practices of writing, walking, and engaging the civic on location for deepening learning and engagement.

Call for Proposals

We encourage individual or team proposals from people in the Carolinas who are working in any teaching, research, or administrative positions related to writing. We welcome proposals related to this year's theme of Homecoming: Finding a Place for Renewal in the Profession. Submissions for presentations, discussion roundtables, workshop ideas, or other forms of conversation-starters are all welcome! Below are some general guidelines, but please don't limit your imagination!

- Presentations can include traditional presentations of research, concepts you've tried with meaningful success in the classroom, ideas around pedagogy and teaching you feel are worth sharing, reflections from the field, and so much more! (30 or 60 minute presentations, including Q&A)
- Discussion roundtables involve large or small group dialogue around a central theme or subtopic. These can include case studies, "problem/solution" scenarios, or practical applications that benefit from group discussions. Responses to published think pieces related to our field or provoking questions that help usher meaningful reflection are also invited. (45 or 60 minute presentations, including Q&A)
- Workshop ideas are more participatory. These might include developing assignment concepts, revising syllabi based on research, reflection, or new pedagogical approaches, exploring new classroom activities, etc. (45 or 60 minute presentations, including Q&A)
- Other possibilities are concepts that are still in creation mode. Maybe it's an idea you have brewing for publication, or a larger conference. Maybe it's the beginning stages of IRB study that you'd like feedback for. Maybe it's just space to share reflections on the past few years and hear, "me, too." (30 or 60 minute presentations, including Q&A)
- Conversation-style presentations that facilitate dialogue around this year's theme can be centered around "How We Help": sharing teaching methods of program leadership strategies that are working well at your site. Presenting findings from a study you're involved in that would be interesting to engage in; and "Help We Need": describe a teaching, program leadership, or research problem or story you would like help thinking through with other attendees. (both formats: 30 minutes with feedback time)

Proposals include:

- Names and contact information (email, phone, home institution) for each person associated with your proposal
- Type of presentation (How We Help, Help We Need)
- A title and 200-word (more or less) description for the program

Submit your proposal by completing this [online proposal form](#). Proposals are due by 11:59 p.m., **Monday, August 25, 2023.**

You are entirely welcome to attend without presenting, but those whose proposals are accepted will be listed on the formal agenda. This may help you advocate for travel funding. Proposals also help us plan appropriate groups and design activities around members' goals.

Registration and Cost. The registration fee of \$220 for full-time tenure track faculty and \$210 for other faculty and graduate students includes 2 nights' lodging in double occupancy rooms, and 5 meals at Wildacres, as well as all conference materials and annual voting membership in Carolinas Writing Program Administrators.

Deadline. Conferencegoers must register by **11:59 PM on Monday, August 28, 2023**

Plans changed? Registration will be fully refunded if we are notified by 11:59PM Friday, September 4.

Questions or Comments? – Contact Shawn Bowers, bowersss@queens.edu, 704-517-7507