

From the Guest Editors

Karen Johnson & Ted Roggenbuck

We enjoy working together, so we expected that co-editing this special issue, “What We Believe and Why: Educating Writing Tutors,” would be rewarding. Now that we have an issue to present, we do so with a reaffirmed sense of how committed, talented, and just plain wonderful writing center people are to work with. It has been a joy and honor to be involved in the process of developing this special issue.

In what follows, Russell Carpenter, Scott Whiddon, and Courtnie Morin present their exciting work in developing a long-discussed certification model specific to writing center work. Their emerging regional certification program, created by writing center practitioners, offers a promising model that validates our collective work. Lisa Cahill, Molly Rentscher, Kelly Chase, Jessica Jones, and Darby Simpson describe their project across several campuses of Arizona State to improve tutors’ reflective and critical thinking by infusing common principles into their centers’ tutor education programs. Their story highlights the value of developing a center’s core principles for both administrators and tutors. Cynthia Lin and Katie DeLuca share their innovative program designed to educate and recruit nonnative English speaking graduate tutors through a workshop series, the Writing Consultant Workshop. In the Tutors’ Column, Jessa Wood reflects upon the value of experienced, tutor-led discussions within tutor education programs. Jessa rightfully argues that such peer-led discussions can lead to greater tutor engagement and peer-to-peer interactions.

Finally, we are excited to announce a forthcoming publication devoted to tutor education. Receiving more than fifty proposals in response to our CFP has allowed us to begin working on an open-access digital monograph, to be hosted on the WLN website. We believe this monograph will offer new and experienced writing center professionals a valuable resource that can be used to reflect on and also to generate discussion within tutor education programs.

