

2016 MSWCA/TutorCon

Submission Deadline: February 1, 2016 (by midnight)

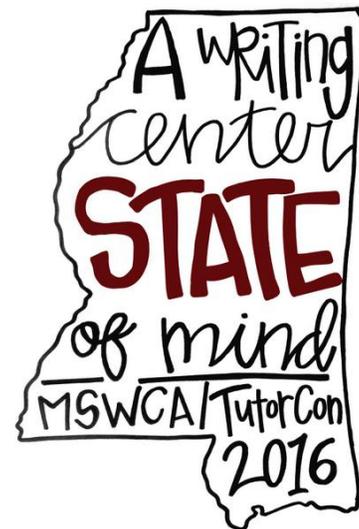
Notification of Acceptance: March 1, 2016

Dates of Conference: April 15-16, 2016

Conference Location: Mississippi State University (75 B. S. Hood Rd, Mississippi State, MS 39762)

Suggested Lodging: Comfort Suites (801 Russell St., Starkville, MS, 39759; Phone: (662) 324-9595, [Website](#))

Submit an Abstract: <http://goo.gl/forms/eECs3oJh0G>



In their 2008 *College English* piece tracing the influence of North's "Idea of a Writing Center," Elizabeth Boquet and Neal Lerner close by advocating for writing center philosophy and practice to extend beyond the walls of our physical Centers:

Our field can no longer afford, if it ever could, to have forged a separate peace between classroom and nonclassroom teaching. There is no separate but equal. Few sites are as rich with promise for understanding the everyday practices that students bring to their academic writing as the writing centers on our very own campuses. Maintaining physical and virtual spaces where students write in the company of other writers, work at the point of their own needs, talk about why writing matters and in what contexts it continues to matter—although these are not ideals of writing centers only, they are *ideals* of writing centers. (186)

Taking up Boquet and Lerner's call, for the 2016 MSWCA Conference, we invite presentations that consider what it means to take on a *writing center state of mind* within the local contexts of presenters' Mississippi elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, community colleges, and universities. We are excited to hear about the important work that you are doing in your Center and welcome all submissions. In particular, we encourage you to consider submitting presentations that grapple with such questions as:

- How does a writing center state of mind transfer into the other professional spaces you occupy and responsibilities you take on—as teacher, as administrator, as editorial staff, as peer reviewers and readers, as students?
- What kinds of writing center states of mind exist in your local contexts—where do they come from, who do they come from, and how does your Center work to challenge and confront misperceptions of what a writing center is, should be, or can be?
- How does your Center work with tutors to create a shared writing center state of mind across multiple and unique staff members? Similarly, how does your Center work with administrators and faculty on your campus to nurture a writing center state of mind?
- How do you leverage material conditions—spaces, furniture, writing tools, etc.—in order to encourage the writers who visit your space to take on a writing center state of mind?
- How does your physical geography—living, working, and educating in the state of Mississippi—relate to the work you do (or aspire to do) in your Center?
- How does your institutional geography—both where you are positioned hierarchically and physically within your institution (the English Department, the Learning Commons, the Library, the Provost's Office)—influence your philosophy, mission, and the kinds of writers and writing you work with?
- And finally, *what is a writing center state of mind?*