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Mapping Support for Diversity Through Writing Center Administration

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IWCA 2008
Workshop Agenda

- Diversity in Writing Centers
- Responding to Scenarios
- Strategies and Resources
- Creating an Action Plan
- Q & A
How do all forms of diversity impact tutor recruitment, tutor training, and policy development in your writing center?
Diversity in Writing Centers

• We address diversity in tutor training.
  – More than race, culture, or gender
  – Description of types of diversity

• Consider the ways in which your campus is diverse and how your writing center can better reflect that diversity.
Language:
dialects
accents
regionalisms
native & non-native speakers
Ethnicity, Culture, and Race:

ancestry
traditions
countries of origin
values and mores
appearance
Geography and Region:
urban, suburban and rural
north, south, east and west
Socioeconomic Class:

status and income
poor
working class
middle class
upper middle class
wealthy
Age:

“traditional” college-aged
“non-traditional” or returning graduate and professional
Gender:
roles for men and women
cultural expectations
sexism
Sexuality:

- heterosexual
- homosexual
- bisexual
- transgender
- intersex
Learning Styles:

visual
auditory
kinesthetic
different writing processes
(Dis)Ability:

physical
cognitive
accommodations
Religion:

multiplicities of belief systems
privileging one or any religion
variations within religions
Thought and Ideology:

beliefs

opinions

morals

philosophies

politics
Responding to Scenarios

• Tutor Training
• Tutor Recruitment/Retention
• Policy Development
Strategies and Resources

• Rethink tutor training and recruitment
• Engage in collaboration and outreach
• Examine strategic planning and accreditation documents
• Participate in professional development
• Create inclusive mission statements
• Develop an Action Plan
• Selected resources
Creating An Action Plan

• Identify the issues and
  – Short term and long term goals
  – Budget available for making changes
  – Training and trainers needed
  – Additional resources available

• Collaborate with individuals and departments
Q & A