



Overview

The 28 professors of the University of Denver Writing Program would be delighted to host a two-day CCCC Regional Conference, “Research(ing) Writing Cultures: Classroom, Program, Profession, Public,” to be held on the beautiful, green 125-acre University of Denver campus, an inviting space in a thriving city, with the Rockies as backdrop. We will provide a quality experience, as evidenced by our having hosted the national WPA Conference and having founded and twice hosted a highly successful regional conference, “Writing the Range.” Registration, including breaks and lunches, will be free. The campus is technology rich with wireless for guests and ubiquitous projection. An on-campus housing option in nice residence halls will make the experience cheap and convenient to travelers, although we’ll also identify a hotel option.

There are 25+ two- and four-year colleges (and hundreds of writing professors) within a 90-minute drive of campus, and many more within a half-day drive from Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, and New Mexico. Denver’s airport has hundreds of direct flights each day from across the nation. A light rail system serves the Denver metropolitan area, including to and from the airport, so travel within Denver is cheap, safe, and easy—including to the University of Denver campus, which has its own light rail stop. Denver has a diverse population, endless attractions from brewpubs to baseball, music to museums to mountains; along with Seattle, Portland, and Austin, it’s one of the nation’s fastest growing areas. We’ll update our existing local guide to celebrate every aspect of Denver for visitors. Denver is a fine place in the summer, with warm, humidity-free days and cool nights. Distant visitors might easily extend their time to make a vacation.

Section 1: Conference logistics and focus

1. *Name/affiliation of conference organizer(s):*

The University of Denver Writing Program, Doug Hesse, Director (dhesse@du.edu | 303-871-7447)

2. *Location*

The University of Denver campus, Denver, CO.

3. *Proposed theme*

“Research(ing) Writing Cultures: Classroom, Program, Profession, Public”

The University of Denver Writing Program invites CCCC members to engage both longtime and emerging questions about the research and writing cultures we shape and sustain in our classrooms, profession, and communities. We plan two days of programming, including hands-on workshops that we will organize and concurrent panels and roundtables that address how our work shapes and is shaped by various writing and research cultures. All interested registrants will be on the program through research and teaching networking forums that we will organize. The conference will address questions like the following (simply examples):

- How can we support student-researchers and teacher-scholars in a range of contexts?
- What can we learn through researching with interdisciplinary colleagues and community partners?
- How can/should we apply our research expertise to current institutional, cultural, and political problems? How do we respond to research and expertise being so devalued outside our field?
- How we can make our research more accessible and meaningful for diverse students, other writing teachers, colleagues and decision makers across campus, and various publics?
- How do we facilitate different types of primary research for/by undergraduate and graduate students?
- How can we best promote reasoned, research-supported arguments in a ‘post-truth’ society?

4. Proposed structure for presentations

1. Research and Teaching forums. ALL participants will be welcome to submit a Research or Teaching idea or a work in progress. Titles will appear in the program. Participants will be distributed in tables led by a facilitator.

Each will make a brief presentation, followed by discussion and suggestions from the group.

2. Panels. Fairly traditional 10-15 minute presentations, delivered with 2 or 3 other speakers. We will insist on shorter presentations than customary, asking presenters to supply background information in handouts or websites, making more direct, focused, and pointed remarks, leaving more time for discussion.

3. Roundtables. Structured conversations designed to spur discussion. Speakers will make brief statements (less than five minutes) in response to a focused question, a moderator will pose follow ups, and the audience will then engage in the wider conversation. We’ll have two kinds of roundtables: ones proposed by groups of participants, and ones announced by us, with proposers invited to join.

4. Workshops. The conference organizers will arrange workshops relevant to our theme, using local expertise in the Denver area. These will focus on learning and practicing “tools,” for teaching or for research. Following are possible examples:

Partnering with Special Collections and Archives: Hosted by area faculty, University Archivists, and librarians from local cultural institutions like the Colorado History Museum, this workshop will explore partnering with collections and experts to integrate archival materials into writing courses.

Writing for Professional Publication: The process of getting published can seem opaque and frustrating. In this workshop, local editors of peer-reviewed journals will share their perspectives and advice, lead participants through activities designed to move drafts-in-progress and other work closer to publication.

Sharing Research with Publics: Workshop on writing for public readerships about disciplinary knowledge, both for enlightenment and advocacy.

5. How will you use locally-available infrastructure for your conference?

We'll use the 28 faculty of the Writing Program, all of them C's members. We'll use campus classrooms and meeting facilities, residence halls, conference services, and excellent campus catering services.

6. Will your institution provide financial or other assistance for your conference?

Yes. We are confident that the Writing Program can secure up to \$10,000 of additional campus support, given our success in recent years of receiving funding for "Writing the Range," a highly-successful one-day conference that has attracted 100+ writing professors from two- and four-year colleges ranging from Laramie, WY, to Los Lunas, NM.

7. Who will constitute the local arrangements committee?

Initially, the Local Arrangements Committee will consist of DU writing professors Jennifer Campbell, Richard Colby, David Riche, Keith Rhodes, Heather Martin, Rob Gilmor, Libby Catchings, Matt Hill, Juli Parrish, April Chapman-Ludwig, Lauren Picard, and Doug Hesse. We also have good relationships with Front Range writing programs, most notably the University of Colorado at Denver, Metropolitan State University, Red Rocks Community College, and Arapahoe Community College—but also CU-Boulder, Colorado State, and CU-Colorado Springs. If we are approved, we will seek their collaboration.

8. Please provide a description of the accommodations and proposed meeting spaces.

Meeting Locations. Conference sessions will meet in accessible, modern, ample spaces on the University of Denver Campus, all of them equipped with projection and sound technology and with strong wireless. Concurrent sessions and workshops will meet in classrooms ranging in capacity from 20 to 80. Research and Teaching Forum sessions will meet in a very nice events space in the library that seats 125 participants at round tables. Plenary sessions will meet in one of three lecture halls on campus best suited to this need.

Technology. All spaces have projection and wireless internet. We will secure guest internet accounts for all. We have 20 laptops that participants can use for presentations if they choose not to bring their own. We will contract with Campus Technology Services for dedicated support throughout the meeting.

Housing. We expect that many participants will commute to the conference, given the large population base within an hour's drive. For those who don't, we can provide two housing options. Two nice residence halls on campus designated for summer guests (including sheets, towels, air conditioning, etc.) can house participants for \$35-50 per night (single v. double occupancy). Parking for those staying on campus is \$8/day. We will also negotiate for designated reservations with hotels located on the light rail line, as DU has a station on campus. The Curtis Hotel is our frequent partner and can often provide rooms at \$189/night. An affordable hotel option just one mile from campus is the La Quinta Inn of Denver, \$125/night.

Local Guide. We will create a website that comprehensively links attendees to resources, including transport, lodging, food, and entertainment. Denver is home of hundreds of brew pubs and eateries. There will be live music playing at a large venues (including Red Rocks) and dozens of bars and clubs. We know how to brag up numerous outdoor (hiking, climbing, rafting) and entertainment options, including museums, botanical gardens, art film houses (we have 4, with a dozen screens among them), etc. A full, online local guide will be available two months before the conference, and on site we'll have an abbreviated print version with top ten lists of restaurants, night spots, music, attractions.

Transportation. GETTING TO DENVER. Denver International Airport has hundreds of flights per day, including direct flights from all major metropolitan areas. Most significantly, Denver is within driving distance (especially given driving expectations in the West) from Laramie, WY, to Rapid City, SD, to Lincoln, NB, to Grand Junction, CO, to Kansas City, to Albuquerque—and all parts between. To put the finest point on it, three million people live within a 90-minute drive of campus, among them hundreds of college writing instructors. MASS TRANSIT: Denver is well served by a light rail system, with a stop directly on campus, as well as an extensive bus network. Light rail is available from the airport to downtown for \$9, with an easy transfer from there to campus. We will provide signage and clear instructions on how to use the system and links to further resources. OTHER TRANSIT: The city is laced with Uber, Lyft, cabs, and a substantial network of bicycle paths.

Accessibility. All meeting spaces (classrooms, events rooms) are fully wheelchair-accessible, as is Denver public transit (including buses and light rail). For attendees with mobility needs, DU has wheelchair-accessible shuttles

available to transport attendees between the campus Light Rail station and the conference venue—and we will cover the expenses. All conference spaces are located in within 5 minutes. We will offer gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegan options for attendees with dietary restrictions. We will contract with sign interpreters, if needed, and we will ask others needing accommodations to contact us so that we can find solutions.

Website. We're well experienced in providing websites on server space we control, and we will build a grand one for the regional conference. For one example, for a one-day conference last year, see <http://duwriting.org>.

Registration. We will staff a registration table with local volunteers throughout the conference.

9. How do you anticipate handling conference registration?

My institution will process conference registration

10. Please also address whether you will provide food

We will offer breakfast, lunch, and morning/afternoon breaks. We will also host a reception. We'll have vegan and gluten-free options and ask registrants to describe any further restrictions. We will research and provide specific information to individuals about how such needs can be met most conveniently.

11. Please describe accommodations currently available or that you can make to ensure that the venue and event will be accessible to those with sensory, mobility, or communication impairments:

As we noted above, all meeting spaces are fully wheelchair-accessible, as is Denver public transit. For attendees with mobility needs, DU has wheelchair-accessible shuttles available to transport attendees between the campus Light Rail station and the conference venue. All proposed conference spaces are located in close proximity. We will contract with sign interpreters, if needed, and we will ask others needing accommodations to contact us well in advance so that we can find solutions.

12. Are there state, local, or campus policies in place that may inhibit the expression or limit participation of constituencies, including members of the LGBT community?

No. Denver is progressive (overwhelmingly “Blue,” a sanctuary city, with a visible and fully embraced LGBT population, etc). Colorado on the whole is progressive (voting for Clinton, with those attitudes widely reflected across the Front Range); while an often-purple state, it leans toward the blue end of the hue. (We did legalize recreational pot.) The University of Denver has tolerant and progressive policies. For example, DU has afforded same-sex domestic partners full insurance and other benefits for at least 15 years, long before marriage became legal.

Section 2: Communications Plan

13. In your region, who is likely to be interested in presenting at/attending your conference, and why?

We will design the conference to be attractive to ALL regional writing teachers, scholars, and graduate students by setting a capacious, important theme; offering a wide range of participation options, including a way everyone can appear on the program; offering free registration and meals; and being located in a very attractive city and campus, a good place to be in the summer.

We know from previous experience that we will draw heavily from the Front Range. We are part of an active local and regional network of both two- and four-year colleges and universities and know that faculty and students at these schools would be likely to attend. There are 25+ schools within a 90-minute drive of campus, and dozens more within the larger driving region we described above.

In the last few years, for example, The DU Writing Program has hosted two day-long conferences, each called “Writing the Range,” each attended by nearly 90 people from more than 20 schools in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Kansas, and Nebraska. We regularly invite faculty from the region to attend lectures and events, including in summer 2017 to a Symposium on The Futures of College Writing, with speakers Linda Adler-Kassner, John Duffy, and Eileen Schell. Our active mailing list includes 200+ faculty. Additionally, we are part of the Colorado/Wyoming Peer Tutoring Association, a network of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, including many non-tenure faculty, from 25+ area two- and four-year colleges and universities.

14. In what ways will the conference attract a diverse group of participants? 15. What kind of outreach activities will you use to attract a diverse group of participants?

The Research and Teaching Network Forums offer a speaking role and the promise of feedback to all, including graduate students, NTT faculty, and anyone who may not have a current project ready for formal presentation. We’ll use established personal, regional networks and host happy hours and coffees, reinforcing personal contacts.

16. Where will the webpage for your conference be hosted?

We will host the conference webpage in a domain we own, <http://duwriting.org>.

17. Please indicate which, if any, of the following you are likely to need.

Regional mailing labels

Emails to regional members. (1-3)

18. What assistance do you most anticipate needing to mount a successful conference?

We need CCCC to provide the \$6000 support and to advertise all the regionals. Otherwise, we’re good!

3. Budget

Food (lunch + breaks for 200 people @ \$25 x 2 days)	\$10,000
Room reservations (if needed for “special” rooms)	1,000
Printing and materials (program, guide, name tags, signs, related materials)	2,000
Photography/AV for production	500
Expenses for keynote speaker	1,000
ASL interpreter, if needed	1,500
Transportation Shuttle from light rail (if needed)	250
Dedicated technology support	500
Total	\$16,750

CCCC Grant	\$6000
CCCC Speaker Support	\$1000
University of Denver Support	\$9,750