

THE RICHARD WRIGHT CENTER FOR WRITING, RHETORIC, AND RESEARCH (RWC)

Executive Summary

Since 2013, the RWC has offered a range of opportunities for students to engage in conversations about writing, speaking and research through one-to-one conversations, workshops, roundtables, and classroom and campus presentations. In addition, it has provided support for potential and current students in summer programs, trained Honors students and graduate students to work as tutors in the RWC, and it has offered support to faculty through departmental presentations, summer online writing group, resources and blog posts on its website. The director and coordinator also present at conferences, participate in professional organizations, and submit research for publication.

Productivity in the RWC is primarily measured by the number of conversations about writing, speaking, and research with JSU students.

One-to-one, face-to-face conversations with students is the method supported by the theory of rhetoric and composition and used by all effective writers and communicators and by 101 top writing centers in the nation (Isaacs & Knight, 2014).

The Richard Wright Center is an auxiliary unit that provides considerable opportunities for students and faculty to improve their writing skills. With only 2 full-time staff members, 3 graduate tutors, and 4 undergraduate tutors, it provided support to student writers and to faculty through teaching and learning activities, campus engagement, and scholarship.

Teaching and Learning

The RWC staff participated in 1,080 interactions with 1,538 JSU students, faculty, and staff, as we provided the following teaching and learning opportunities for conversations about writing, speaking, and research:

<u>One-to-one conversations</u>	<u>1,017 (with 608 individual students)</u>
By appointment	959
Walk-in	58

Other Opportunities

Type	Number Offered	Number of Participants
Small groups		
Workshops open to all JSU students	22	191
Graduate Roundtables	7	37
ICN Summer Program	2	37
Large groups		
Class presentations	20	472
Orientations	7	66
School/Departmental Presentations	4	97
Faculty groups	1	30
Total	63	930

Since Fall 2013, the RWC has collaborated with the Honors College to recruit and train peer tutors. Since 2016, an Honors colloquium has been offered through the RWC for training honors students to become peer tutors, HON 110 Tutoring Writing in a Global Context (1 hr):

Took the course 14 Completed the course 8

June 7, 2018

With the addition of the training course, the RWC can better support JSU students, both those who receive the training and those who take advantage of the opportunities in the RWC. Two courses have been developed and submitted for approval, one for training and one for continuing professional development, to position the RWC to address the persistent problems of recruitment and retention of tutors by

- a) Increasing the number of peer tutors
- b) Providing continuous professional development for peer tutors
- c) Creating a community of trained peer tutors

With a grant from the Hewlett Foundation, the Director, Coordinator, and professor in English, Dr. Shanna Smith, developed and taught an open education resource (OER) course for ENG 104 (Composition 1).

Campus Engagement

The RWC also participated in the following campus activities:

- Fall Faculty and Staff Seminar
- Graduate Student Orientation
- Honors College Orientations
- Freshman and Transfer Student Orientation (Undergraduate Studies)—July 2017
- Freshman Orientation (Undergraduate Studies)—Fall 2017
- Graduate Studies meetings about the administration of the GECE
- Mississippi Philological Association (MPA), hosted by the Department of EMFLSC
- Department/Program Orientations for Students in 3 colleges and the Athletic Department

RWC continues to provide a community service site for students who train and work as peer tutors. Likewise, the Center provided tutoring to students in ICN (Department of Chemistry) summer program.

The Center continues to develop and add resources for students and faculty to the RWC website.

In addition, RWC was invited by the Center for University Scholars to lead 2 workshops, and since 2016, it has hosted an online summer writing support group for faculty and, this year, graduate students.

Scholarship

RWC also engaged in research and participates in professional conversations on campus and in the field. This year the director and coordinator presented their research at 5 state, regional, national, and international conferences, one an invited presentation in Russia via technology. They served as treasurer and member-at-large on the board of one professional organization; served on the planning committee for 2 state conference; and together they are revising and resubmitting 2 articles for publication.