

## **The Future of Writing across the Curriculum (WAC): Building on a Strong Foundation**

Roundtable Description for EAC December 4 – 5, 2018

### Panelists

Mike Palmquist, Colorado State University  
Martha Townsend, University of Missouri  
Terry Myers Zawacki, George Mason University

The three panelists, all second-generation leaders in the WAC movement, will engage in a roundtable discussion about the future of this unusually robust movement that has had a significant impact on U.S. higher education in its nearly forty-year history.

**WAC's History** Townsend presents a brief history of the movement, accounting for its theoretical and pedagogical underpinnings. She shows how its earliest roots took place nearly simultaneously in both the U.K. and the U.S. She cites key figures such as Emig (1971), Britton, et. al. (1975), Fulwiler & Young (1991), Russell (1991), and Walvoord (1996). An abbreviated handout will help participants track WAC's evolution.

**WAC's Current Status** Zawacki describes the movement's current status, including the formation of the Association of Writing Across the Curriculum, the WAC-GO graduate organization, and the first-ever 2019 WAC summer institute. She notes current research emphases on graduate WAC, WAC and English L2 writing, and transnational WAC efforts.

**WAC's Future** Palmquist discusses the future of WAC from his perspective as founding director of the WAC Clearinghouse and director of the next International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference. He will comment on possibilities created by educational technologies, shifts in the higher education landscape, and the growing importance of critical reading and writing skills.

Following their brief presentations, panelists will comment on one another's remarks before inviting participants to engage in discussion and pose their own questions.