

Online Community Search for Higher Ed Tutoring

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Introduction

My dissertation will be focusing on the best practices of educational technology in college writing centers. As such, I have sought out online communities that revolve around higher ed writing centers. Because this is a rather specific category, I expanded my search to also include Learning Assistance Centers and Tutoring Centers, as Writing Centers themselves often fall under the auspices of a larger structure.

Annotated Webliography

1. The Association for the Coaching and Tutoring Profession. (2019). ACTP Facebook Group. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/pg/actprofession>

The ACTP was originally founded in 2003 as the Association for the Tutoring Profession and within the last year changed its name to the Association for the Coaching and Tutoring Profession in order to better align itself with current higher ed tutoring practices which currently also include academic coaching. The Facebook group, launched in March of 2011, has 260 members. ACTP has four main goals: 1) Provide opportunities for tutors, tutor coordinators, and administrators to develop and enhance skills through the sharing of methods and strategies, 2) Provide a basis to stimulate research in the philosophy and application of tutoring, 3) Develop relationships with other organizations, schools, and businesses who are also committed to the development of independent learners, and 4) Offer an annual conference and publications to bring information to all interested groups. The Facebook group does not appear to be thriving, as the latest post is from October 2019 and the post before that is from 2018. They do, however, hold an annual conference, send monthly newsletters, and also support their own scholarly journal.

2. College Reading & Learning Association. (2020). CRLA Facebook Group. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/CollegeReadingAndLearningAssoc/>

The CRLA states that it “is a group of student-oriented professionals active in the fields of reading, learning assistance, developmental education, tutoring, and mentoring at the college/adult level. CRLA’s most vital function and overall purpose is to provide a forum for the interchange of ideas, methods, and information to improve student learning and to facilitate the professional growth of its members. In a spirit of community, members share their own successful experiences with others so that all may benefit” (CRLA, 2012). The Facebook group was formed in March, 2012, and currently has 1,141 members. In addition to the Facebook group, the CRLA hosts an annual conference, sends a monthly newsletter, and also has regional affiliates (such as the NJ/PA CRLA) that hold their own regional conferences with their own regional newsletters. The Facebook group itself does have numerous comments on each post.

3. International Writing Centers Association. (2020). IWCA Facebook Group. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/internationalwritingcentersassociation>

The IWCA was formed in 1983 and the Facebook group was created around 2010. The group currently has 1,158 followers. The purpose of the group is to “foster communication among

writing centers and to provide a forum for professional concerns” (IWCA, 2020). The IWCA is one of the most active groups in regards to members sharing information.

4. Learning Support Centers in Higher Education. (2019). LSCHE Listserv. Retrieved from <http://www.lsche.net/>

LSCHE operates a listserv, the LRNASST, which is the only listserv designed specifically for LSCHE. It was created in 1994 at the University of Arizona’s Winter Institute for Learning Assistance Professionals. The goal was to provide learning assistance practitioners and developmental educators a way to share information via email. Currently, there are over 1,800 members with seven different countries represented. The LSCHE states that “It is hoped all professional educational organizations members including CLADEA organizations (ATP, ATCLA, CRLA, NADE, & NCLCA), and also NYCLSA, and NCEOA will use LRNASST-L to inter-network for the benefit of all who work in learning assistance and developmental education programs and services” (LSCHE, 2019).

5. National College Learning Center Association. (2020). NCLCA Facebook Group. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/pg/NCLCA.USA>

The NCLCA began in 1985 as the Midwest College Learning Center Association, going national and changing its name the National College Learning Center Association in 1999. The Facebook group was created in April, 2015. The group has 413 members on Facebook. The mission of the NCLCA is “to support learning center professionals as they develop and maintain learning centers, programs, and services to enhance student learning at the post-secondary level” (NCLCA, 2015). There is not a great deal of activity on the page as most posts from the last year are in regards to the annual conference the NCLCA hosts, including calls for proposals, registration information, and associated webinars. The NCLCA does host an annual conference, sends a monthly newsletter and other emailed updates, and hosts a scholarly journal.

6. National Tutoring Association. (2020). NTA Facebook Group. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/NationalTutoringAssociation/>

The National Tutoring Association (NTA) was founded in 1992, making it the oldest operating organization for professional tutoring at the college level. The NTA Facebook group has 847 members where they frequently post information about tutoring strategies and new developments in the world of higher ed and private tutoring. Members themselves don’t appear to be heavily involved in sharing information in the group, however, as most of the information posted appears to be coming from the organization itself. The NTA hosts an annual conference, with this year’s conference being held “virtually” with both synchronous and asynchronous sessions. There is also a quarterly newsletter.

7. Supplemental Instruction Network. (2020). SI Net Listserv. Retrieved from <https://info.umkc.edu/si/si-net/>

SI Net is a listserv hosted by the University of Missouri – Kansas City, which is the institution that created the Supplemental Instruction program. While no exact number of members is given,

it is stated that faculty and staff from over 1000 institutions in 13 countries have participated in SI training and are connected on SI Net.

8. Writing Centers' Online Discussion Community. (2020). WCenter Listserv. Retrieved from <http://lyris.ttu.edu/read/?forum=wcenter>

The International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) does not host this listserv, but it highly recommends it. Begun in February of 2000, it is actually run from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. This listserv currently has 3,743 members whom are spread out at numerous colleges and universities across the country. I receive their digest daily and there is frequently at least half a dozen or more messages a day discussing writing center administration, tools, technology, and conferences along with general queries.

9. Writing Center Network. (2020). Writing Center Network Private Facebook Group. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/groups/636361996487250/>

The Writing Center Network is a private Facebook group that was started in 2014. It currently has 381 members. The purpose of this group is to share Writing Center innovations as well as offer support to Writing Center professionals. This group appears to be active in discussions and postings.

10. Writing Program Administration. (2020). WPA-L Listserv. Retrieved from <https://lists.asu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=wpa-l>

The Writing Program Administration Listserv was founded in January of 1993 and intended to connect Writing Program Administrators at 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. It is hosted by Arizona State University but does not make a number of members or subscribers available. It does appear to have a large group of participating members as during the first six days of February 2020, almost 60 messages were posted to the listserv, making it a very lively discussion forum.