A MINEFIELD OF DREAMS

TRIUMPHS AND TRAVAILS OF INDEPENDENT WRITING PROGRAMS



Edited by Justin Everett and Cristina Hanganu-Bresch

A MINEFIELD OF DREAMS: TRIUMPHS AND TRAVAILS OF INDEPENDENT WRITING PROGRAMS

PERSPECTIVES ON WRITING

Series Editors, Susan H. McLeod and Rich Rice

The Perspectives on Writing series addresses writing studies in a broad sense. Consistent with the wide ranging approaches characteristic of teaching and scholarship in writing across the curriculum, the series presents works that take divergent perspectives on working as a writer, teaching writing, administering writing programs, and studying writing in its various forms.

The WAC Clearinghouse, Colorado State University Open Press, and University Press of Colorado are collaborating so that these books will be widely available through free digital distribution and low-cost print editions. The publishers and the Series editors are committed to the principle that knowledge should freely circulate. We see the opportunities that new technologies have for further democratizing knowledge. And we see that to share the power of writing is to share the means for all to articulate their needs, interest, and learning into the great experiment of literacy.

Recent Books in the Series

- Chris M. Anson and Jessie L. Moore (Eds.), Critical Transitions: Writing and the Question of Transfer (2017)
- Joanne Addison and Sharon James McGee, Writing and School Reform: Writing Instruction in the Age of Common Core and Standardized Testing (2017)
- Lisa Emerson, The Forgotten Tribe: Scientists as Writers (2017)
- Jacob S. Blumner and Pamela B. Childers (Eds.), WAC Partnerships Between Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions (2015)
- Nathan Shepley, *Placing the History of College Writing: Stories from the Incomplete Archive* (2015)
- Asao B. Inoue, Antiracist Writing Assessment Ecologies: An Approach to Teaching and Assessing Writing for a Socially Just Future (2015)
- Theresa Lillis, Kathy Harrington, Mary R. Lea, and Sally Mitchell (Eds.), Working with Academic Literacies: Case Studies Towards Transformative Practice (2015)
- Beth L. Hewett and Kevin Eric DePew (Eds.), Foundational Practices of Online Writing Instruction (2015)
- Christy I. Wenger, Yoga Minds, Writing Bodies: Contemplative Writing Pedagogy (2015)
- Sarah Allen, Beyond Argument: Essaying as a Practice of (Ex)Change (2015)
- Steven J. Corbett, Beyond Dichotomy: Synergizing Writing Center and Classroom Pedagogies (2015)

A MINEFIELD OF DREAMS: TRIUMPHS AND TRAVAILS OF INDEPENDENT WRITING PROGRAMS

Edited by Justin Everett and Cristina Hanganu-Bresch

The WAC Clearinghouse wac.colostate.edu Fort Collins, Colorado

University Press of Colorado upcolorado.com Boulder, Colorado The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

University Press of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80303

© 2016 by Justin Everett and Cristina Hanganu-Bresch. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International.

ISBN 978-1-64215-081-0 (pdf) | 978-1-64215-082-7 | 978-1-60732-651-9 (pbk.)

DOI 10.37514/PER-B.2016.0810

Produced in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Everett, Justin, editor. | Hanganu-Bresch, Cristina, editor.

Title: A minefield of dreams: triumphs and travails of independent writing programs / edited by Justin Everett and Cristina Hanganu-Bresch.

Other titles: Perspectives on writing (Fort Collins, Colo.)

Description: Fort Collins, Colorado: The WAC Clearinghouse; Boulder, Colorado: UniversIty Press of Colorado, [2016] | Series: Perspectives on writing | Includes bibliographical references. Identifiers: LCCN 2016045188 | ISBN 978-1-64215-081-0 (pdf) | ISBN 978-1-64215-082-7 | ISBN 978-1-60732-651-9 (pbk.)

Subjects: LCSH: English language—Rhetoric—Study and teaching (Higher) | Report writing—Study and teaching (Higher) | Writing centers—Administration.

Classification: LCC PE1404 .M575 2016 | DDC 808/.0420711—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2016045188

Copyeditor: Don Donahue Designer: Mike Palmquist

Series Editors: Susan H. McLeod and Rich Rice

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. Hosted by Colorado State University, and supported by the Colorado State University Open Press, it brings together scholarly journals and book series as well as resources for teachers who use writing in their courses. This book is available in digital formats for free download at wac.colostate.edu.

Founded in 1965, the University Press of Colorado is a nonprofit cooperative publishing enterprise supported, in part, by Adams State University, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Regis University, University of Colorado, University of Northern Colorado, Utah State University, and Western Colorado University. For more information, visit upcolorado.com.

CONTENTS

Barry Maid
Introduction. Toward a Schema of Independent Writing Programs Justin Everett and Cristina Hanganu-Bresch
Part I. Mythos: The Stories We Tell
Chapter 1. Coming into Being: The Writing Department at Grand Valley State University in its 13th Year
Chapter 2. An Outsider's Perspective: Curriculum Design and Strategies for Sustainability in a Canadian IWP
Chapter 3. An Alternative History of an Interdependent Writing Program 6. Keith Hjortshoj
Part II. Topoi: The Places We Inhabit
Chapter 4. TA Training in an Independent Writing Program: Revisiting the Old Comp./Lit. Split in a New Venue
Chapter 5. Integrating Writing into the Disciplines: Risks and Rewards of an Alternative Independent Writing Program
Chapter 6. Still Trying to Break Our Bonds: Contingent Faculty, Independence, and Rhetorics from Below and Above
Chapter 7. Part of the Fabric of the University: From First Year through Graduate School and Across the Disciplines

Contents

Part III. Techne: The Methods We Employ
Chapter 8. Inscribing Justice: IWPs and Inclusivity Education 177 Michelle Filling-Brown and Seth Frechie
Chapter 9. Quo Vadis, Independent Writing Programs? Writing about Writing and Rhetorical Education
Chapter 10. Not Just Teachers: The Long-Term Effects of Placing Instructors in Administrative Roles in an Independent Writing Program 213 Laura J. Davies
Part IV. Praxis: The Transformations We Enact
Chapter 11. Managing Change in an IWP: Identity, Leadership Style and Communication Strategies
Chapter 12. Navigating the Minefield of Dreams: Branding and Strategic Planning as Conceptual Core for Independent Programs 269 Justin Everett
Chapter 13. The Five Equities: How to Achieve a Progressive Writing Program within a Department of English
Afterword. Between Smoke and Crystal: Accomplishing In(ter)dependent Writing Programs
Epilogue. Marginalization on the Home Front: The Curious Sibling Relationship between English Studies and Composition Studies. A Personal Account
Contributors