

# Acknowledgments

Every year that passes, I am further astounded by the generosity and depth of experience of colleagues in our field. In a lot of ways, we only have to ask and you respond again and again. Thank you to all the contributors who shared their stories. Collectively, we have hundreds (of years of experience in writing centers). The field needs to hear our voices.

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To my family, my ideas about labor and organizing come from growing up with proud dues-paying union members (IBEW and SEIU). Through watching you, I learned how to do a hard day's work and advocate for what I and other workers need. Through you, I learned the importance of living beyond work and always looking to the future. I love you.

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And with that, I want to acknowledge and honor the bloody and violent struggle for labor rights and a future of ethical and fair work in the United States and around the world. The activist Florence Reece wrote in a 1931 song about the bloody conflict of the Harlan County miners' strike:

Come, all you good workers  
Good news to you I'll tell  
Of how the good old union  
Has come in here to dwell  
Which side are you on?

– *Genie Nicole Gaiamo*

First, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for the brave and diligent work done by the contributors to this project. Your stories have moved and inspired me—broken my heart but also given me hope. Second, I'd like to thank the associate directors with whom I have had the privilege of working: Cyndi Boertje, Lori Rogers, and Emily Pioszak. Without your labor, our shared vision of our centers could not be enacted. Our associate directors are all too often our unsung champions. Similarly, I want to thank the colleagues in MiWCA, ECWCA, and IWCA who've provided me with so much over the years—friendship, community, mentors, information, and more.

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– *Daniel Lawson*