

## Special Issue on the Work of the Writing Center Director

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As guest editors for this special issue of *WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*, we are delighted to both celebrate and explore “The Work of the Writing Center Director” with you. After a welcomed outpouring of proposals, from which we invited about 20 well-crafted essays, we had an enviable wealth of material to consider. The four pieces we bring you here offer a superb blend of fresh ideas and topics with deft discussions that not only engaged us as long-time administrators but also will surely interest those of you who are new to the work.

In “Collaborating, Calibrating, and Control,” Elizabeth Powers helps us take a new look at collaboration and analyzes the benefits and challenges of collaborative work across disciplines, programmatic boundaries, and institutions. Mike Mattison’s suggestions about “Cultivating Alumni” offer a novel approach to cultivating sources of support for his writing center. His wonderfully readable piece details his experience in seeking out his university’s alumni writing tutors and leveraging their support as donors and advocates for the writing center. In her lively essay “Mothering Work,” Michelle Miley explores the conflict that women directors often feel between being nurturing and being effective administrators. She argues that mothering and feminist ideals can be equally valuable in navigating a director’s daily work. Finally, instead of the usual Tutor’s Column, Mary Lou Odom offers a Director’s Column challenging us to explore our vision of what our own writing centers should be and to communicate that particular vision to our school community.

One bit of news: due to the outpouring of fine essays we received, we will likely have a second issue of *WLN* dedicated to the Work of the Writing Center Director, in 2017. Stay tuned! Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

