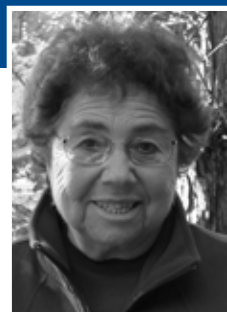


From the Editor

Muriel Harris



Although *WLN* occasionally has special issues on a single topic, this issue includes articles on diverse subjects. Given current public conversations about the influence of faith, the article by Christopher LeCluyse and David Stock is particularly relevant. LeCluyse and Stock are both at institutions in Utah with many tutors who are members of the LDS church. LeCluyse and Stock's article explores ways in which the tutors' Mormon religious identity influences their tutoring. In the next article, four members of Walden University's online writing center, Sarah Prince, Rachel Willard, Ellen Zamarripa, and Matt Sharkey-Smith, point to the growth of research documenting connections between online student support and online student success. The authors argue that more online writing tutoring scholarship and collaboration can position writing center praxis at the center of online education.

When *WLN* issues are devoted to special topics, those issues include a Tutors' Column relevant to that topic. Doing so has delayed the publication of our regularly accepted tutors' essays, so we're playing catch-up by including three Tutors' Column essays here. For those who use these essays in staff meeting discussions, you have three to choose from. Although the tutors' articles are about what tutors learn about themselves, about tutoring, and about the students they work with, the concerns of each essay are quite different. Megan Poole introduces herself as an insecure writer who draws on the power of stories from her tutoring to share how she learned that she too is a writer. When a tutor cannot understand the content of a paper, Christopher Schacht writes that the tutor can *grok* the paper. Schacht explains what it is to *grok* a paper and shows us how that approach can help tutors and writers. Another way to assist writers is to work with them at the prewriting stage, but as John Kneisley's data analysis reveals, few students ask tutors for help at this valuable stage in his writing center.

If you notice a heavy emphasis on tutors in this issue, that's because as we all know, the heart of a writing center is its tutors.