

Editor's Note

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We begin this difficult academic year wishing everyone well as we cope with the challenges of a pandemic. Most of all, we hope everyone is staying safe while finding effective ways to continue assisting students. As the responses posted in the COVID-19 section of the *WLN* blog (www.wlnjournal.org/blog) indicate, there has been great concern for caring for the welfare of students as well as for supporting them emotionally in the strange times we find ourselves in.



In a different confining environment with all sorts of limitations and constraints—a prison, Melissa Pavlik writes about her work as she developed a writing center for inmates. That meant dealing with endless rules, delays, and difficulties, while holding classes to educate tutors and watching as they demonstrated collaboration. The inmates managed to form a community of writers despite stringent restrictions on their interactions. Their dedication should convince us that, with effort and determination, major hurdles can be surmounted. One of those inmates, Benny Rios, writes this issue's Tutors' Column about the forms of collaborative learning that he and his fellow writers engage in. And Rios asks us to take a closer look, to study how collaborative learning works within the confines of a prison.

In another environment, that of STEM courses at her institution, Anna Rollins and her co-authors take us through the steps her team followed to develop a series of workshops for various STEM courses, to train the tutors, to evaluate students' responses to those workshops, and to prepare resources for tutors and teachers for future workshops.

The realm of digital writing is yet another—and very complex—environment in which writing center staff assist writers. To help tutors understand and navigate this digital world and to support students writing within this world, Brian Hotson and Stephanie Bell offer what they describe as “three foundational concepts that speak to the writing center experience of the digital turn” (p.19).

As so many gatherings are temporarily postponed or canceled, we are not including our usual conference calendar. In the meantime, stay safe, stay well, and keep leaping all the hurdles in your path.