

Guest Editors' Note

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As a writing center director and a librarian, we are very pleased to introduce this special issue on collaboration between writing centers and libraries. Research and writing are both iterative, exploratory, and messy processes; they are intellectually rigorous yet often deeply personal and emotional. In an era of higher education marked by multimodal communication, open concept learning centers, and inclusive pedagogies, librarians and writing center directors across the country have been finding in one another kindred spirits.



At St. Olaf College, we are no exception: we developed a joint initiative between the library and Writing Center to integrate research and writing support. We piloted our program in first-year writing preparation courses, providing each student with weekly support from a tutor cross-trained in research and writing. Collaborating to provide intensive, individualized mentoring has affirmed the benefit of more deeply intertwining the processes of researching and writing for students as well as tutors. One of those tutors, Tashonna Douglas, describes her experience as a writing and research tutor in this issue's "Tutors' Column."



While the value of collaboration between writing centers and libraries can seem self-evident, the following essays reveal some ways in which these partnerships can result in unexpected transformations. In particular, these essays consider what we can learn from one another in our notions of welcomeness (Pregent, Marcyk, Williams, and Haywood) and privacy (Parsons, Dolinger, and Tirabassi), and the ways in which we can challenge the boundaries between our work (Albanese and Fena). They offer a diversity of models from one-time collaborations to more integrated programs with shared data systems and joint training. As you read, consider ways that your own work benefits, or could benefit, from closer partnerships between your writing center and library. Thank you to the *WLN* editors and previous special issue editors for their support and mentorship for this collection.