

December 9, 2019

The Association for Writing Across the Curriculum is nearing its first anniversary as a member-supported organization. I am writing to provide an overview of AWAC activities and next steps, and to invite all to join AWAC.

Developing the Organization

- AWAC has grown to 345 members, including 20 [institutional members](#), 250 full-time professional members, 25 part-time/adjunct/retired members, and 49 graduate student members. For a list of these Founding Members, [click here](#). **The deadline for being listed as a Founding Member or Founding Institution is December 31, 2019.** To learn about AWAC membership, [click here](#).
- Spearheaded by Past Chair Jeff Galin, **AWAC became certified as a 501(c)(3)** in late November, 2019, retroactive to October, 2018, when we were incorporated as a FL non-profit corporation. This certification means that AWAC is exempt from federal income taxes and is able to receive tax-deductible donations. For more details on this certification, [click here](#). To make a financial contribution to AWAC, [click here](#).
- AWAC held its **first annual business meeting** at the 2019 CCCC in Pittsburgh. During this meeting, the Executive Committee provided an annual report and committees held small group discussions. The annual report presented at CCCC is available to all: [click here](#).
- AWAC's **ten committees** have defined goals, drawn up proposals and budgets that were vetted by the Executive Board, and have worked toward achieving their goals. These committees each have a chair (or co-chairs) that sits on the Executive Board, and eight of the committees are open, meaning they may be joined by any AWAC member at any time. At this point, 88 AWAC members participate on AWAC committees. Some of their accomplishments are listed below.
- AWAC will be holding its second election cycle in January 2020, as the position of Incoming Chair will open. AWAC members are invited to nominate or self-nominate for this important leadership position.

Key Committee Accomplishments

- Led by the WAC Summer Institute (WACSI) Committee, AWAC held its first **WAC Summer Institute** in June 2019. This three-day professional development event provided mentorship on developing impactful and sustainable WAC programs. By all accounts, it was a great success! The [2020 Summer Institute](#) will be held at Colorado State University from May 31-June 3. [Registration](#) opens on December 16 at 1:00 pm EST and is not restricted to AWAC members.
- Led by the WACSI Committee, a follow-up workshop to the WAC Summer Institute is being organized. This workshop will bring together past and current WACSI participants for conversations about WAC assessment and research. This year's **WACSI workshop** will be held at IWAC on Thursday, June 4th at 9:00 am. Invitations will be sent after the WACSI 2020 registration closes. Registration details will soon be available on the [IWAC website](#).
- Led by the AWAC Mentoring Committee, **AWAC held two Virtual Workshops** this fall, one geared toward WAC pedagogy and the other toward WAC program administration. Two more Virtual Workshops are being planned for the spring. These webinars are free for (and restricted to) AWAC members. [Recordings of the webinars](#) are available to AWAC members.
- Led by the AWAC Mentoring Committee, **AWAC is assembling a Board of Consultants.** Consultant applications were collected and vetted in November, and the consultant list will soon be added to the AWAC website.
- Led by the Research and Publications Committee, AWAC is working on a set of **research grants**, which will be available to AWAC members. A call for applications will go out in early

spring and grant recipients will be announced at the 2020 International Writing Across the Curriculum conference (IWAC).

- Led by the WAC Graduate Organization (WAC-GO) Committee and Diversity & Inclusion Committee, AWAC is sponsoring **travel grants** to WAC-related events. AWAC offers IWAC 2020 registration waivers to graduate student members of AWAC and AWAC members from underrepresented groups. Further, AWAC offers a WACSI registration waiver to a graduate student member of AWAC.
- The Communications Committee has been working with a visual designer to create a new **logo**, is planning a **redesign of the AWAC website**, and is developing calls for the positions of **Website Manager** and **Social Media Coordinator**.

Outreach and Research

- In collaboration with the WAC Clearinghouse, AWAC is sponsoring a set of **awards that recognize contributions to WAC**. The Awards Subcommittee, led by AWAC Executive Board Member-at-Large William McCauley, Jr., and comprised of WAC Clearinghouse Board members and AWAC members, and will be seeking nominations soon.
- AWAC Executive Board members Chris Anson, Laurie Britt-Smith, Michelle Cox, Heather Falconer, Al Harahap, and Brian Hendrickson presented on the development of AWAC at the **2019 Critical Thinking and Writing Conference at Quinnipiac University**. [Click here](#) to view their slides.
- AWAC Working Group members Christopher Basgier, Michelle Cox, Heather Falconer, Jeff Galin, Al Harahap, Brian Hendrickson, Dan Melzer, Mike Palmquist, and Stacey Sheriff **co-authored a chapter on the formation of AWAC**, “The Formation of a Professional Organization for Writing Across the Curriculum,” which is forthcoming in a collection on WAC co-edited by Lesley Bartlett, Sandra Tarabochia, Andrea Olinger, and Margaret Marshall.
- The **International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference (IWAC)** preceded AWAC by some 25 years, but 2020 marks the first year it is being held under the auspices of AWAC. We hope you can join us for [IWAC 2020](#) at Colorado State University from June 3-6. [Conference registration](#) is open and AWAC members receive a \$30 discount.

In sum, AWAC has developed a number of [benefits to members](#):

- Discounts for books co-published by the WAC Clearinghouse and the Colorado State University Open Press and WAC-related conferences and events
- Access to mentorship opportunities, such as the AWAC Virtual Workshops
- Grant opportunities for research and travel to WAC-related conferences and events
- Opportunities to serve in leadership roles in the field
- Professional affiliation with a WAC organization

We thank the AWAC Executive Board, AWAC Committee members, and all Founding Members and Founding Institutions for a great first year of AWAC. We are looking forward to an even better second year.

We invite all to become AWAC members, in order to benefit from AWAC resources as well as contribute to the shaping of the organization through participation in AWAC Committees and positions on the Executive Board. [Become a member](#) by December 31 to be listed as a Founding Member or Founding Institution.

Sincerely, Michelle Cox, AWAC Chair

On behalf of the AWAC Executive Committee:

Jeff Galin, Past Chair
Stacey Sheriff, Incoming Chair
Justin Rademaekers, Secretary
Laurie Britt-Smith, Treasurer

This letter was sent to WPA-L, WAC-L and the listserv of the Consortium on Graduate Communication on December 9, 2019.