



Official Newsletter of the Ohio River Valley Region

March 2016



Welcome!

What an exciting year for our region! Learn how you can be involved in this issue. Your region has new leadership! Let us introduce ourselves and outline our goals as we begin this journey together.



Megan Dotson

Appointed President

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When I learned of the vacancy for the position of President of our region, I was thrilled to learn more about the position and apply. CRLA has been an unbelievably helpful professional organization to be a part of over the past six years. The outstanding level of professional development and unmatched caliber of colleagues that gather every year at the national conference motivated me to serve in this capacity. I am honored to be appointed President of our region.

I am currently the Transition Education Reading Program Coordinator at West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) in Paducah, Kentucky. We are an Aspen Prize Top 3 Community College, a finalist with distinction, and have been named in the top 10 all three years the prize has been awarded. WKCTC is one of sixteen colleges in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). This is my sixth year, and promotion to Associate Professor year, at the college. It is also the sixth year that I have been a member of CRLA. Prior to working at WKCTC, I taught preschool, elementary school, substitute taught for all grade levels, and helped adults returning to college. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from The Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio and a Master of Arts in Education in Reading and Writing from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky.

With the ever changing face of developmental education over the past several years, one thing I hope members of our region can share with one another includes current shifts at their respective institutions and adaptations to current legislation in each state. I would love for members to frequently share ideas,

questions, innovations, research, and best practices through articles in our newsletter, through our Facebook page or Twitter account. I have several other goals to reach this year as you will see later in this issue.

I look forward to working with you throughout this year and meeting everyone at the annual conference in Louisville! I will be attending the NADE conference March 16th-18th, 2016 and would be thrilled to speak with anyone else who may be attending. Please feel free to contact me anytime!



Maureen McCoy

Selected Co-Director

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Megan invited me to assist her with coordinating this regional chapter of the CRLA this December, and I was delighted to accept. As an undergraduate tutor I earned my Level III CRLA Master Tutor Certification, and I have been a professional member of CRLA for three years. As a Tutor Coordinator in my first professional position, I worked to help my program earn Level I and II certification within a year of beginning the position. I have greatly enjoyed

meeting other members and learning from them while attending conferences, and while going through the certification process. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities and Art History, as well as a Master of Arts in Humanities with a Certificate in Medieval/Renaissance Studies from the University of Louisville. I am currently applying for doctoral programs in learning and development.

In August 2015 I began my current position as the Program Coordinator for the REACH Learning Resource Center for scheduled tutoring at the University of Louisville. REACH, or Resources for Academic Achievement, is a large academic support program designed to help students in their undergraduate studies. I am looking forward to sharing what we do with all of you both through this regional communication and at the annual conference, and I look forward to learning more about your centers.

I am very excited to welcome regional and national members to the CRLA Annual Conference in November! I look forward to working with all of you and I hope to meet many of you at the conference this fall in Louisville!

Goals and Information from the Regional Directors

A Goals and Activity Report was submitted for our S/R/C on January 18, 2016. Below are the goals and activities highlighted in the report.

Major goals for the next six months:

- Collect member contact information and form a database for easy

communication

- Increase membership of the ORV S/R/C
- Survey members to determine professional development needs in our region
- Begin publishing an ORV newsletter for members again
- Solicit articles/ideas for publication in the newsletter from the members
- Encourage member participation in the upcoming conference by submitting proposals and volunteering for various needs
- Plan a webinar for members based on survey results
- Use social media to communication with members

Services and activities you are considering to help meet the goals:

- Using the CRLA website to find member contact information
- Utilizing existing Twitter and Facebook accounts for ORV
- Using email and newsletter communications to increase membership and encourage member participation in the 2016 CRLA conference
- Requesting funding during the next cycle after surveying membership for ideas and needs

How can you be an active part of the Ohio River Valley Region? We're glad you asked!

As you know, the annual conference will be held in Louisville this year November 3rd-6th. Cathy Leist, retired from the University of Louisville, is our on-site chair this year. Cathy needs our help! We want and need ORV to have a strong presence at the conference

Here are some ways you can help with the conference:

1. As Cathy stated in her email “We want a strong presence of the Ohio Valley folks presenting at the conference who will showcase exciting initiatives and post-secondary teaching.” So please strongly consider submitting a proposal. The conference theme is “Tracking Student Transitions.”

Proposals can be submitted between February 1st and April 1st. Please visit CRLA’s website for more information: <https://www.crla.net/>.

2. Please consider working a shift or a few hours for the following:

- welcoming guests at the airport and or hotel lobby
- helping staff the registration table, the information/events tables, and the evening hospitality suite
- making sure signs and technology needs are met at the conference
- attending sessions to introduce speakers and to conduct evaluations (chairing a session)
- serving as leaders for evening events--groups going to restaurants or for optional tours
- monitoring event entrances to welcome and to ensure CRLA members only are admitted to meal events

3. Cathy would also like suggestions for attractions/tours/improvements that you would like to see offered in Louisville. For example, do folks want a formal visit to Churchill Downs or NULU as a formal tour?

4. Begin thinking of silent auction items you, a group, or your institution could donate.

If you are interested in any of the needs listed above, please send Cathy the

following contact information: name, institution, email address, and your summer email address. Cathy's email is cathy.leist@louisville.edu. She will add you to the list and you will receive monthly conference updates beginning in March.

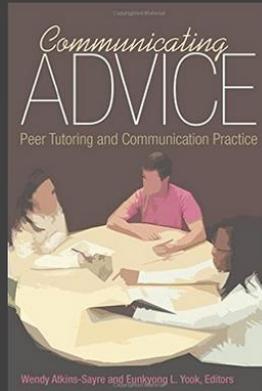
Specific Requests for the CRLA Conference

Megan Dotson is the Chair for Conference Registration this year, and Maureen McCoy is the Chair for Information Tables. Both will need volunteers to staff the registration table in two hour shifts during the following times:

- Wednesday, November 2 – 5:00pm-9:00pm
- Thursday, November 3 – 7:30am – 8:30pm
- Friday, November 4 – 7:30am – 6:00pm
- Saturday, November 5 – 7:30am – 3:00pm
- Sunday, November 6 – 7:30am – 10:00am

Please send an email to [Megan](#) or [Maureen](#) if you would be able to take a shift (or two) during any of the days.

Goods Reads



Communicating Advice: Peer Tutoring and Communication Practice

Wendy Atkins-Sayre & Eunhyoung L. Yook, Editors

Peter Lang Publishing Inc., August 25, 2015

We all know that good communication skills are essential for tutors when trying to help students understand, apply, or practice material. But what happens when these skills are not as developed? How does communication between tutoring staff and supervisors impact the effectiveness of a tutoring center?

Atkins-Sayre and Yook have collected articles from practitioners in the field about how good communication can contribute to student learning and further the ethos of tutoring. Chapters include information on training tutors to be effective communicators both in-person and online, evaluating tutors' skills, and providing constructive feedback for tutors. The book is divided into three theoretical sections that are followed by case studies. The sections focus on maintaining open communication among staff and supervisors, identifying and meeting the needs of students, and creating a more productive and supportive environment for students. This is a great resource for directors looking for more information on how they can approach communication in training, and how to help tutors become ethical and thoughtful employees.

**--Maureen McCoy, REACH Learning Resource Center Program Coordinator,
University of Louisville, Kentucky**

What are you reading? If you would like to contribute a summary of a great book you are reading about academic support or education, please [submit it](#) for inclusion in future newsletters!

What else do you want to see?

Help us improve our regional resources and communication!

We welcome all current and potential members to provide input on what they would like to see happen with the Ohio River Valley Region. General information that we want members to send us ideas for:

- Ideas events and activities in the ORV: drive-in conferences, webinars, etc.
- Information about upcoming events or conferences in your area.
- Highlights from your institution or program: what's new, innovative, or exciting?
- What are you writing about or researching currently?
- Member written articles to stimulate group discussions.
- Critical issues in our field and ideas for how they impact your center and how you are handling them.

Contact [Megan](#) or [Maureen](#) with your ideas!

2016 CRLA Board

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