



# Spring Newsletter

April 21, 2017

## Inside this issue:

- Message From the President
- Program Schedule
- Breakout Session Information
- Get to Know the Keynote Speaker
- Outstanding Tutor Award Winner
- MNK Award Winner
- News From the Region
- Upcoming Events
- Campus Map
- Membership Information
- Evaluation

Welcome NTWCA Friends,

Spring 2017 has come quickly, and the unpredictable spring weather has us always on our toes. I realize as we speed through each day (as most are already thinking about summer plans), another conference has "sprung" upon us, and our gathering of writing center friends is here again.

I welcome this joyous time as a refresher to not only visit with colleagues I've come to know and respect, but also a time to meet new faces and welcome those to this wonderful organization. A former coworker encouraged me to attend the NTWCA with her seven years ago and get to know others in the area of writing. I did, and everyone has made me feel welcome even though I am not a seasoned writer, have never taught professionally, and don't

have a background in rhetoric. Although the prior may be the case, I was included from the beginning, which leads me to our conference topic for this year: "Inclusion and Ethics in the Writing Center."

As we begin this spring conference, I would like to welcome new attendees and returning members. Our goal of the NTWCA is to encourage more colleges and universities to take part in the NTWCA from the DFW and surrounding areas. The NTWCA welcomes all individuals wanting to exchange information about writing and have a discussion board for those expanding their role in the writing or academic centers at their institution. Thank you for your time and dedication to a profession where everyone can create their voice through words.

—Holly Stone, President, NTWCA

## Program Schedule

### North Texas Writing Centers Association

Spring 2017 Conference  
April 21, 2017

## Officers:

### President:

Holly Stone

### Vice President:

Jared Landin

### Treasurer:

Elizabeth Parrish

### Secretary:

Ka Riley

### Membership Committee:

Darren Breedlove  
Anna Rieve

### Newsletter Editor:

April Trafton

**10:00 — Arrival**

**10:15 — Opening Remarks**

**10:30 — Breakout Sessions**

**Session 1 (10:40 am—11:25 am)**

**Session 2 (11:35 am—12:20 pm)**

**12:30 — Keynote Speaker and Lunch, Raffle, Board Meeting, Poster Presentations**

**1:45 — TCC NW Academic Learning Center Tour**

**2:00 — Awards and Presentation from MNK Award Winner**

**3:00 — Closing Remarks**

## NTWCA Spring Conference

Hosted by:

Tarrant County College  
Northwest Campus—Walsh Library (WTLO, 3rd floor)  
4801 Marine Creek Pkwy.  
Fort Worth, TX 76179

We want to know what you're doing in your center! What is working? What changes have you made?

**Send updates for the newsletter anytime throughout the year, so they don't get lost in the bustle.**

Updates can be sent via email to:

**April Trafton, Newsletter Editor ([april.trafton@tccd.edu](mailto:april.trafton@tccd.edu))**

### Breakout Session 1 (10:40–11:25)

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1A<br>Walsh<br>Library,<br>East Wing | <p><b>"Learning to Evaluate Internet Information and Avoid Fake News: Or How Not to Be an Unquestioning Fish"</b></p> <p><b>Type: Workshop</b></p> <p>The facilitator and participants will discuss different types of fake news, the psychology behind confirmation bias, a confirmation bias case study, and suggested guidelines readers can use when evaluating internet news and information. The workshop will conclude with participants evaluating pre-selected websites in teams and reporting on their findings. The workshop will help writing center professionals discuss fake news and internet information evaluation with their students in order to aid them with their research efforts.</p> <p><b>Facilitated by:</b><br/><b>Jim Baxter, Assistant Director of Library Services—Tarrant County College, NW</b></p>  |
| 1B<br>WACB<br>1107                   | <p><b>"'Just Be Yourself!': Recognizing, Respecting and Supporting Students' Identities in the Writing Center"</b></p> <p><b>Type: Roundtable</b></p> <p>This session will be a round table conversation exploring how our continued support of students' self-identities can help them grow academically. In addition to a note card activity designed to help us turn a critical eye on our interactions with students, we will share anecdotes in an open discussion regarding our abilities to acknowledge each students' individuality. By collectively sharing our experiences, we aim to increase our knowledge of how we can foster independent thought by encouraging students to write with their own voice. Although the peer tutor perspective will be provided, thoughts from all members of the center are welcome and encouraged.</p> <p><b>Facilitated by:</b><br/><b>Logan Davis, Peer tutor—Tarrant County College, NW</b><br/><b>Jonathan McNamee, Peer tutor—Tarrant County College, NW</b><br/><b>Sarah Shoaib, Instructional Aide—Tarrant County College, NW</b></p> |
| 1C<br>WACB<br>1108                   | <p><b>"Ethics of Working with Autistic Students in the Writing Center"</b></p> <p><b>Type: Roundtable</b></p> <p>This roundtable discussion will focus on the ethics of working with students with autism. Tutors may need to alter their traditional way of tutoring in order to better suit autistic students since, by very definition of the condition, they struggle with communication using language. The ethics and very nature of knowing whether a student is autistic will also be discussed as will approaches and strategies for best serving students with autism in the writing center. We hope all will share ideas and hear perspectives from other writing center professionals.</p> <p><b>Facilitated by:</b><br/><b>Amber Hunsaker, Tutoring Center Coordinator—Vernon College</b></p>   |

## Breakout Session 2 (11:35–12:20)

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 2A<br>WACB<br>1106 | <p><b>"Mitigating Social Themes of Linguistic Discrimination in the Learning Environment"</b></p> <p><b>Type: Presentation</b></p> <p>This presentation will explain how social themes of linguistic alienation and discrimination negatively affect international and ESOL students' success inside and outside of the classroom or learning environment. Applied Linguistics theories on mitigating these themes to promote inclusive educational efficacy will be presented, and strategies for removing these barriers will be explicated. Proven, practical, ready-to-use tutoring methods will be provided and explained.</p> <p><b>Facilitated by :</b><br/> <b>Belle Valentic, Adjunct ESL Instructor—Tarrant County College, NW</b></p>   |
| 2B<br>WACB<br>1107 | <p><b>"A Learning Center for Everyone: Building an Inclusive Environment in a Writing Center"</b></p> <p><b>Type: Presentation</b></p> <p>The Writing Center is especially poised to promote inclusion and ethics as writing needs occur across the disciplines. To foster the campus community, we implemented yearly open house events and added workshops on grammar and writing. The open house events include all the learning labs on campus and provide an opportunity for our department to connect with staff and students throughout campus unfamiliar with our services. The workshops are another opportunity to connect with students. Workshops include topics from grammar to information literacy. Offering these programs allows our lab to reach students beyond English classes and serve the needs of professors in other subjects. These events encourage a variety of visitors from a diverse mix of the student body and classes. Our presentation will discuss the creation, goals, successes, and difficulties in organizing open house events and maintaining a topical workshop program.</p> <p><b>Facilitated by :</b><br/> <b>Jared Landin, Learning Lab Manager—Tarrant County College, NE</b><br/> <b>Elizabeth Parrish, Instructional Associate—Tarrant County College, NE</b></p> |
| 2C<br>WACB<br>1108 | <p><b>"Literary Analysis: 'Tis a Puzzlement"</b></p> <p><b>Type: Presentation</b></p> <p>Many students may have no real understanding of analysis—what it is, how to do it, how to write it—and no clue about how to integrate it with argument. The presenter will explain how tutors can use an analogy of a jigsaw puzzle to help students visualize analysis. Come learn how to fit the pieces together to make the whole.</p> <p><b>Facilitated by: Anna Rieve, Lead Tutor—Collin College</b></p>   |

## Keynote Speaker: Kim Jackson, M.A. Tarrant County College, NW



Kim L. Jackson currently serves as the Department Chair for the Visual and Performing Arts and an Associate Professor of Humanities and Dance at Tarrant County College Northwest. She received both her B.A. in dance and her M.A. in drama from Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in Education, specializing on professional studies in education with a focus on experiential learning, professional development and diversity and inclusion in higher education.

Outside of teaching, Ms. Jackson maintains a career as a performance artist, educational consultant, yoga instructor/life coach, and diversity and inclusion practitioner. Since 1994, Ms. Jackson has trained educators, community groups and businesses in creating and sustaining diverse and inclusive working/learning environments that allow people to thrive and bring the best of themselves forward.

Ms. Jackson is a member of several organizations, including Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and she is a liaison officer for the Community College Humanities Association. She is a 2013 recipient of a Golden Apple Teaching Award, a 2014 and 2015 recipient of a John and Suanne

Roueché Teaching Excellence Award, and the 2015 recipient for the Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award for the Northwest campus at Tarrant County College.

## **Outstanding Tutor Award Winner: Sally Hogue, M.A. Collin College**



Sally Hogue lives in a small, country town near Lake Lavon in North Central Texas. These days she spends most of her time writing short stories, growing Earth-kind roses, and serving Her Majesty Queen Cleopatra (Cleo)—her sixteen year old cat. She has recently retired from teaching English at Dallas and Collin County Community Colleges; nonetheless, she continues to tutor English students several days a week at Collin.

She has remained committed to the students and staff during a nearly 12-year consulting tenure. Sally's Bachelor's is in English, her Master's is in Humanities, and she has many years' experience teaching English as a Second Language, thus her knowledge base and experience are phenomenal. Sally is someone who approaches each student with exceptional professionalism and compassion. She genuinely listens to her students and empathizes with them. Sally is able to ease students' fears and stimulate their confidence. She also judiciously manages her time, so every student leaves a consultation feeling Sally is genuinely committed to his or her academic improvement.

While attending college, Sally developed a passion for writing. Her short story entitled, "Headed East," won the fiction prize her senior year at Southern Methodist University, and another of her stories entitled, "Remembering Grandpa Jones," placed second in a

short story contest her sophomore year at Eastfield College. Both stories were published in the colleges' magazines. She has written a novella which she continues to publish from time to time. However, her latest venture into the literary world involves writing

## **Mary Nell Kivikko Award Winner: Amanda Anderson Texas Christian University**



Amanda Anderson is a student at Texas Christian University (TCU) working on her Master of Education in Professional Counseling and School Counseling. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Dallas Baptist University (DBU). At both universities, Amanda has fueled her love for writing by participating in various writing competitions, blogging through her web site, and working on several book ideas.

Currently, she works at the TCU Writing Center and is in the process of publishing her first book under her first and middle name (Amanda Raschel). The American Educational Research Association (AERA) has accepted one of her research studies for publication, and she is conducting an additional research study in hopes of publishing it within the next year or so. She spends her spare time volunteering with a non-profit organization that partners with survivors of human trafficking, serving the kids at her church in downtown Fort Worth, and planning her wedding this summer.

Amanda's winning proposal addresses using solution-focused brief therapy (SBFT) techniques in tutoring as a way of allowing clients to focus on their most relevant concerns and maintain ownership of their papers. She asserts that incorporating SBFT-related questions can foster engagement and facilitate empowerment for students.

Photo Credit: Elisabeth Carol

### Tarrant County College—Northeast Campus

We have a robust Workshop series created by our staff members Elizabeth Parrish and Andrew Weatherford. Workshops are held twice a week and run through 16 sessions during the first 8 weeks, then another 16 sessions during the second 8 weeks. Elizabeth and Andrew have set it up so well that any of our tutors can easily take the PowerPoint lessons they designed and teach the 30 minute sessions themselves.

We also had our 5th annual Learning Centers Open House in our Learning Center last month. We had over 150 students visit the booths, which had members of the various learning centers across our campus stationed at them. This event has become a bi-annual ritual on our campus and a way for fellow learning center staff to network and swap ideas.

—Jared Landin, Learning Lab Manager

### Collin College—Spring Creek Campus

We have offered 64 seminars through the Spring Creek Seminar Series this semester on a potpourri of writing subjects from government to art, and so far, student attendance has exceeded 555 as of March 27.

—Joani Reese, SCC Writing Center Manager

### Collin College—Preston Ridge Campus

"An Evening with Marilyn Nelson" will take place on April 27, 2017 at the Collin College – Preston Ridge Campus Conference Center at 7pm (Poetry Reading, Q&A, and Book Signing).

This event showcases the work of national, award-winning poet Marilyn Nelson. Nelson is the author or translator of 17 poetry books for adults and children. She held the office of Poet Laureate of the State of Connecticut from 2001-2006, and her memoir was named one of NPR's Best Books of 2014.

—Julia Quarles, Writing Center Manager

### Dallas Baptist University

The Dallas Baptist University Writing Center has begun the process of turning every one of its 90+ handouts into instructional YouTube videos. Our Visual Handout Producer, Becca Redmon, is uploading them at a rate of two per month, and they cover everything from formats, to comma splices, and more. While only Redmon works to film

and edit the videos, the entire staff assists by starring in the videos, brainstorming scripts for the videos, and assisting in preparations. The Center hopes to complete this massive project by the start of the fall semester.

In addition to the visual handout, the entire staff has worked diligently to get Collaborate off the ground for our distance students. With an average of two Collaborate appointments per week, we are thrilled to see students utilizing this fantastic service. We even have a truly distance student meeting with us from Czech Republic! Now, that's service, and it's with a smile, too.

In unrelated news, the DBU Web Team issued an invitation to Isaac Miller to interview for an open slot in their office. Upon completion of the interview, Dr. Blake Killingsworth offered Miller the job, and he moved to that office on 20 March. Miller says, "The DBU Writing Center was, and always will be, a warm home and a place of learning. I will take with me many lifelong skills and experiences and gladly recommend the Center to any and all students." In fact, Miller missed us so much, and we him, that he now works one night a week in his former "home."

Finally, this NTWCA Conference will be the last for Miss Haley Briggs as her graduation no longer looms in the distant future. Haley will wrap up her time in the UWC this summer and transition to student teaching before her imminent Pomp-and-Circumstance walk. We have appreciated the dedication, patience, and care Briggs demonstrates with both clients and staff. We wish her Godspeed as she enters the mission field teaching youngsters in one of her heart-homes, Juarez, Mexico.

—Dallas Baptist University Writing Center Staff

### Tarrant County College—Northwest Campus

The full-time tutors in the TCC NW Academic Learning Center have been working to achieve their College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) level three certifications. As part of the process, each of them has researched a topic that coincides with the goals of the center and created a product that will continue to serve the center and TCC students after the certification is achieved.

Darren Breedlove investigated the roles of learning centers and what makes them successful. Drawing from

the work of Frank L. Christ's model of success in learning centers, Darren created a presentation geared toward lab managers and directors that outlines the tenets of Christ's model, including clientele, programs and services, technology, staff training, partnering, certifications, and public relations, that can be transferred and monitored in learning centers.

Kaylee Parsons, one of the ESL specialists in the Academic Learning Center, identified a variety of memorization strategies and demonstrated how these strategies could be applied specifically to language goals (such as acquiring vocabulary, utilizing correct grammar, and avoiding common mistakes). Kaylee designed a workshop on effective memorization techniques for language learners.

Belle Valentic designed the C.L.A.S.S. program to assist faculty and instructional staff in supporting academic success for ESL/ESOL students and students who speak a non-standard dialect of English (NSSE). The purpose of this project was to assist faculty and instructional staff in developing stronger understanding and support for these students. Her program provides a four-tiered instructional module system to be used whole or in part: (1) in-learning center support where a tutor provides ESOL/NSSE tutoring and individualized assistance to students; (2) professional development for faculty where she raises awareness and encourages understanding of ESOL/NSSE students; (3) collaborative curriculum design and implementation where she works directly with faculty; (4) in-class support where she assists with instruction.

April Trafton designed and piloted the Guided Learning Workshops program serving an Integrated Reading and Writing course as a way of increasing the visibility and perceived usefulness of the Academic Learning Center and to increase student confidence in their study skills. The program consists of an Academic Learning Center tutor collaborating with the class through observation and leading out-of-class workshops to provide instruction on soft and study skills.

The projects will be wrapped up in the summer and will remain part of NW ALC programming in future semesters.

—April Trafton, Writing Tutor and ESL Specialist



## Upcoming Events

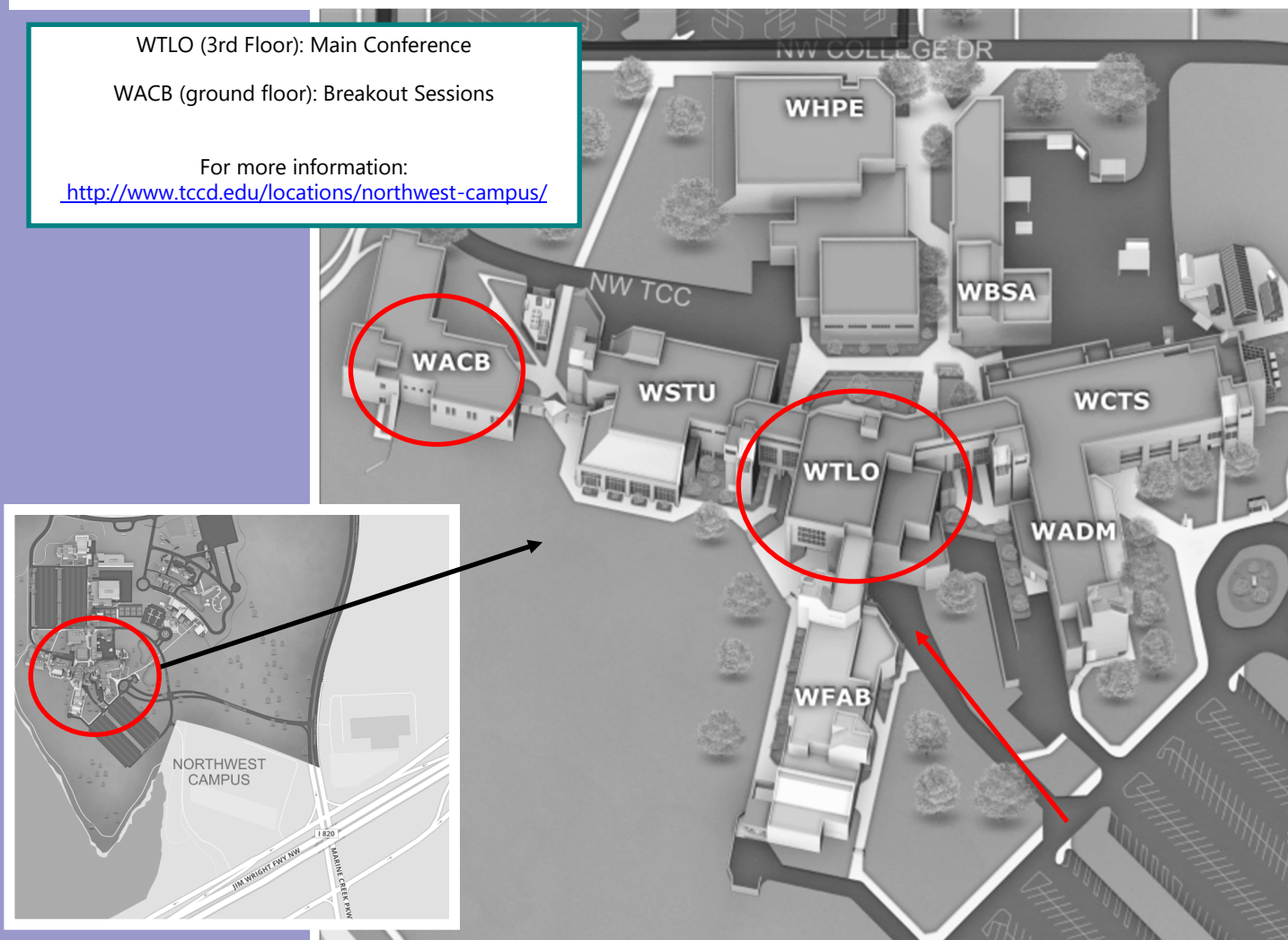
|   |                     |                                      |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Association of Colleges for Tutoring and Learning Assistance (ACTLA) Conference</b><br><br><a href="http://actla.info/2017-conference/">http://actla.info/2017-conference/</a>                                 | April 27-29, 2017   | Sacramento, CA                       |
| <b>International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) Summer Institute</b><br><br><a href="http://writingcenters.org/events-2/iwca-summer-institute/">http://writingcenters.org/events-2/iwca-summer-institute/</a> | June 18-23, 2017    | Vancouver, BC, Canada                |
| <b>National Conference on Peer Tutoring In Writing (NCPTW)</b><br><br><a href="http://ncptw.chicagolandwritingcenters.org/">http://ncptw.chicagolandwritingcenters.org/</a>                                       | October 12-15, 2017 | Hofstra University<br>Hempstead, NY  |
| <b>College Academic Supports Programs (CASP) Conference</b><br><br><a href="http://casp-texas.com/?page_id=1328">http://casp-texas.com/?page_id=1328</a>  | October 22-24, 2017 | San Jacinto College<br>Galveston, TX |
| <b>College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) Conference</b><br><br><a href="https://www.crla.net/">https://www.crla.net/</a>  | November 1-4, 2017  | Pittsburgh, PA                       |
| <b>MLA International Symposium</b><br><br><a href="https://www.mla.org/Convention">https://www.mla.org/Convention</a>   | Jan 4-7, 2018       | New York, NY                         |
| <b>Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC)</b><br><br><a href="http://www.ncte.org/cccc">http://www.ncte.org/cccc</a>  | March 14-17, 2018   | Kansas City, MO                      |
| <b>National Tutoring Association (NTA) Conference</b><br><br><a href="http://www.ntatutor.com/2018-conference.html">http://www.ntatutor.com/2018-conference.html</a>  | April 12-18, 2018   | Palm Harbor, FL                      |

WTLO (3rd Floor): Main Conference

WACB (ground floor): Breakout Sessions

For more information:

<http://www.tccd.edu/locations/northwest-campus/>



## *Invitation to Join the North Texas Writing Centers Association*

The North Texas Writing Centers Association serves writing centers of the region as a clearinghouse for exchanging information, as a forum for discussing important writing center issues, and as a means of promoting the professional status of writing center personnel.

Membership in the NTWCA includes directors and staff of writing centers and persons interested in writing centers. Membership can be either institutional (\$50 for a single campus institution, \$25 for each campus in a multiple campus institution) or individual (\$10). Institutional memberships include writing center staff and tutors at the institution.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Institutional Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your profile:

☐ I am a Writing Center Director.

☐ I am a Writing Center Staff Member (professional consultant, graduate tutor, or undergraduate peer tutor).

☐ I am interested in Writing Centers (past director, faculty member, student ...).

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Send Dues To:   NTWCA  
Attn: Elizabeth Parrish  
TCC NE English Department  
828 W. Harwood Rd.  
Hurst, Texas 76054-3299**

## 2017 NTWCA Spring Conference Evaluation

Please complete the survey below to help us improve future conferences.

1 = Terrible, 5=Excellent

1. How was your overall experience at the 2017 NTWCA Spring Conference?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

2. How well did you enjoy the breakout sessions?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

3. Which breakout session that you attended was the most useful?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How relevant was the conference theme ("Inclusion and Ethics in the Writing Center") to the work that you do?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

5. How well did the accessibility and accommodations meet your needs?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

6. How did you hear about the NTWCA Spring Conference?

NTWCA website      Facebook      Flyer/poster      Listserv/email      Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many NTWCA Conferences have you attended in the last three years?

0 (this is my first)      1                      2                      3                      4                      5+

8. Would you have attended if you were charged for lunch?

Yes                      Yes, but it would have been difficult                      Maybe                      No

9. What did you consider when deciding to attend the conference? (Circle all that apply)

Cost                      Location                      Conference content                      Theme  
(speakers and breakout sessions)

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

10. What suggestions do you have for improving future conferences?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Other comments?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_