

Leah M. Chambers

Department of Justice, Law, Technology and Liberal Arts
1801 West First Street
Venango College
Clarion University of PA
Oil City, PA 16323
lchambers@clarion.edu

Education

Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification in Secondary Education, English, expected 2015
Clarion University of PA, Clarion, PA

Doctor of Philosophy in English, concentration in Composition, 2011
(Dissertation: *Composition, retention, race, remediation and the first-year experience: A descriptive study of the “at-risk” student experience on a regional campus*)
Indiana University of PA, Indiana, PA

Master of Arts in English, concentration in Written Communication, 2006
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

Bachelor of Arts in English, concentration in Writing, 2004
Summa Cum Laude
Adrian College, Adrian, MI

Conference Presentations

2015

Improving student grades and retention with directed self-placement
(2015, February). Panel presented at the 34th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience, Dallas, TX (with R. Lane)

2014

Finding their place: Valuing diversity and increasing retention with an innovative directed self-placement program
(2014, November). Panel presented at the 2014 PASSHE Summit, Millersville University, Lancaster, PA (with R. Lane)

2013

Implementing campus and community high-impact educational practices

(2013, October). Panel presented at the Fall Conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees, Clarion, PA. (with R. Lane, L. Miller, & K. Ryan)

The Community Learning Workshop: Developing a service learning program that meets community needs and engages students

(2013, October). Academic Innovation Conference, Shippensburg, PA. (with R. Lane)

Make way for transfer: Supporting the transfer of writing skills by examining students' dispositions in the first-year writing classroom

(2013, June). Panel presented at the Critical Transitions: Writing and the Question of Transfer Conference, Elon, NC. (with R. Lane & C. McCarrick)

Introducing alternative research genres: Implementing and assessing comics and infographics

(2013, April). Roundtable presented at the East Central Writing Centers Association annual conference, Clarion University, Clarion, PA. (with R. Lane)

Visualizing research for the common good: Engaging first-year students in community-based academic research through comics and infographics.

(2013, February). Poster session presented at the 32nd Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience, Orlando, FL. (with E. Wierszewski)

2012

Visual and oral literacy practices as alternatives to the traditional research paper.

(2012, October). Panel presented at the conference for the Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts, Lancaster, PA. (with R. Lane)

2011

Reconciling the relationship between "old" and "new" values in new media assessment.

(2011, April). Panel presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Atlanta, GA (Session Chair)

2010

Dislocation and the first-year experience.

(2010, October). Roundtable discussion at the conference for the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU), Lock Haven, PA

Navigating the contact zone: Racial and cultural collisions during the first year.

(2010, April). Panel presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Louisville, KY. (with L. Shelly)

2009

Erasing race or racism?: Making visible race and cultural collisions on a first-year campus.
(2009, October). Paper presented at the conference for the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU), Shippensburg, PA.

2008

The road less traveled: Reconsidering the tutorial as the central means of writing center work.
(2008, October). Paper presented at the International Writing Centers Association annual conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Intersections: Reconciling student and tutor goals with academy expectations.
(2008, October). Presentation accepted at the International Writing Centers Association annual conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Liberating the center: Reconsidering the tutorial to support multiple literacies.
(2008, April). Panel presented at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA. (with L. Shelly and B. Cope)

Representing hidden realities: Reclaiming the literacy agenda.
(2008, April). Paper presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, New Orleans, LA.

2006

Utilizing reflection to promote skill transfer in first-year composition.
(2006, November). Panel presented at the National Council of Teachers of English annual conference, Nashville, TN. (with J. Castillo & E. Wierszewski).

2003

The role of feminism in the French Revolution.
(2003, November). Paper presented at the Annual McNair Scholars Conference, Delevan, WI.

Invited Presentations

Using Visual Texts to Achieve Common Core Standards. (2013 March). Teacher In-Service at Cochranon Jr./Sr. High School, Cochranon, PA

Using Visual Texts to Achieve Common Core Standards. (2014 March). Teacher In-Service at Meadville Jr./Sr. High School, Meadville, PA

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, Clarion University, Venango College, Fall 2014-present
Department of Justice, Law, Technology and Liberal Arts
College Writing (2-3 sections, face-to-face and online, Fall 2014-present)
Writing I (2 sections, Fall 2014 and two sections, Spring 2015)

Assistant Professor, Clarion University, Fall 2010- Spring 2014
English Department
College Writing (3-4 sections every semester, face-to-face and online, Fall 2010-Spring 2014)
Writing I (1 section, Spring 2013, and four sections, Fall 2013)
Writing and Visual Argument (1 section, Fall 2012)

Instructor, Indiana University of PA, 2009-2010
College Writing (6 sections)

Teaching Associate, Indiana University of PA, 2008-200
Research Writing (4 sections)

Frederick Douglass Teaching Scholar, Slippery Rock University of PA, Summer 2008
Interpreting Literature (1 section with J. McCarren)

Teaching Assistant, Eastern Michigan University, 2004-2006
Reading and Writing the College Experience (2 sections)
Researching the College Experience (2 sections)

Writing Center Tutor, Eastern Michigan University, 2004-2006

Writing Center Tutor, Adrian College, Adrian, MI, 2001-2004

Administrative Experience

Project Co-Director, 537 Clarion: Community Learning Workshop
Clarion, PA, 2013-Present

The Community Learning Workshop is a drop-in homework and tutoring center located at 537 Main Street in Clarion, PA. The workshop provides critical educational opportunities to K-12 students and adults through programming and workshops on writing, reading and computer literacy. The workshop also provides the opportunity for Clarion University students to connect with the community through service. The workshop staff is comprised entirely of Clarion University students. I co-direct the workshop with my colleague, Dr. Rich Lane, who is also in the English Department. Dr. Lane and I started the project from the ground up after securing a grant from the University. In the spring of 2014, we secured \$12,000 in additional grants to fund projects and programs. As co-directors of the workshop, Dr. Lane and I are responsible for overseeing daily operations. This includes but is not limited to: keeping a schedule of student volunteers, developing and facilitating programs, writing press releases, creating flyers and calendars of upcoming events, researching grant opportunities, applying for grants to secure funding and maintaining our budget.

Faculty Coordinator, Engaged Learners Program

Clarion University, March 2013-2014

Duties included working with faculty to create eight Learning Communities that each connect a General Education course to a first-year seminar course, working with faculty and administrative assistants to build schedules for 280 students, maintaining a record of enrollments to ensure that courses filled to near capacity, developing all materials for faculty development based on best practices and current retention research, facilitating faculty development for eight faculty members, meeting with students and parents at orientation to provide information about the program, fielding questions from parents and students via phone and email, working with peer mentors, peer instructors and the Director of the Office for SOAR to coordinate additional support and resources for the Engaged Learners and orchestrating monthly meetings with faculty and staff to ensure the success of the program.

Coordinator, Incoming Eagles Institute Summer Program

Clarion University, Summer 2012

Duties included planning, organizing and implementing every aspect of this summer program, from working with faculty to develop the curriculum to overseeing the day-to-day activities of the program. This position required working and collaborating with individuals all across the University, including faculty, student mentors, bookstore personnel, the Dean of Enrollment management and various staff members in admissions, financial aid, housing and residence life and the Office of the Registrar. Duties also included working with Educate Online, an online tutoring company, to coordinate the delivery of tutoring in math and English for the 59 students enrolled in the program.

Assistant Director of the Writing Center

Indiana University of PA—Punxsutawney, 2006-2008

Duties included tutoring students enrolled in a variety of first-year general education courses, facilitating evening workshops on writing-related issues, visiting courses to assist faculty during writing workshops, maintaining records of students who used the center and holding workshops for faculty on assigning and assessing writing across the disciplines.

University Service

Advising

- *Tobeco* (student club, 2010-2014)

Committees

- University Task Force on Writing Assessment (2014-present)

- Dept. of Justice, Law, Technology & Liberal Arts, Assessment Coordinator (2014-present)
- Dept. of Justice, Law, Technology & Liberal Arts, Evaluation Committee (2014-present)
- Dept. of Justice, Law, Technology & Liberal Arts, Search Committee (2014-present)
- Presidential Commission on LGBT Concerns (2011-2014)
- Institutional Review Board, Representative for English (2013-2014)
- English Department Writing Committee (2010-2014)
- English Department Curriculum Committee (2011-2014)
- Access to Success Evidence Team (2012-2014)
- English Department Curriculum Committee, Chair (2012-2013 AY)
- Gender and Social Justice Representative for Local APSCUF (2012-2013 AY)
- English Department Assessment Committee (2010-2012)
- Retention Advisory Committee (2011-2012)
- Task Force on Pre-College Programs (2011-2012)
- First-Year Experience Committee (2011-2012)
- EAPSU Undergraduate Conference Planning Committee (2010-2011)

Service

- Project Co-Director for 537 Clarion: Community Learning Workshop (2012-Present). Clarion, PA.
- Facilitator of “Astronomy Camp for Kids” at Astroblast (2013). Oil City, PA.
- Presenter for ACES (Academic and Career Essentials for Success) during Freshman Move-in Weekend at Clarion University (2010, 2013). Clarion, PA.
- Tutor for the Clarion County Literacy Council (2012). Clarion, PA.

Professional Development

Assessment Institute (2014, October). IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN

Attended presentations and workshops over three days to learn about best practices for both programmatic and classroom assessment.

Academic Innovations Conference (2013, October). Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA.

Participated in a two-day working conference about developing “high-impact” learning experiences for students.

Honors, Awards and Grants

- University-wide Faculty Development Grant, \$2,500.00, Clarion University (2015)
- Venango College Faculty Development Grant, \$300.00, Clarion University (2015)
- University Faculty Neighborhood Star Award, Clarion University (2014)
- Outstanding Faculty for Social Equity, Clarion University (2014)

- College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant, \$800.00, Clarion University, (2013)
- University-wide Faculty Development Grant, \$1,000.00, Clarion University (2013)
- High-Impact Innovation Grant, \$37,000.00, Clarion University (2012)
- Frederick Douglass Teaching Scholar, Slippery Rock University (2008)
- Graduate Assistantship, Indiana University of PA (2006-2008)
- Graduate Fellowship, Indiana University of PA (2006-2007)
- Graduate Fellowship, Eastern Michigan University (2004-2005)
- National Writing Project Fellowship (2006)
- Shakespeare Scholar, Oxford University, UK (2003)
- Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholars Program (2001-Present)

Professional Affiliations

- National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
- The National Writing Project (NWP)