

TAMUG-Writing Lab

Peer Educator Conference Presentations

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Alena is responsible for the overall organization and flow of the Texas A&M at Galveston Writing Lab. She works closely with faculty, planning teaching strategies and writing assignments. After meeting with faculty, she prepares a staff of eight student coaches to guide client students according to individual professor preferences and departmental conventions.

Alena developed online activities for Technical Writing and Research Writing in Business classes, and she oversees two Hybrid course sections. Alena regularly conducts workshops in topics like Avoiding Accidental Plagiarism and Writing Conventions in Science and Engineering. She prepares written handouts and PowerPoint presentations to support Professional and Executive Communication in all of our majors.

She organized a three day conference on “The Emerging Role of Academic Support Departments in Periods of Economic Uncertainty.” The conference, held in Fredericksburg, featured a half-day Leadership Lab which has become a permanent resource in our staff development activities.

Alena leads our discussion panel which includes:

- Lorenda Archer : Marine Biology
- Christine Clark: Maritime Systems Engineering
- Austin Parish: Maritime Systems Engineering

Session A. One Size Doesn't Fit All - Form Fitting with Your Campus Culture (10:30-11:20 am)

We get How-To handouts, PowerPoints, and scholarly journals telling us how to run a writing center or peer mentoring organization. All are well intentioned and well researched. Books describing techniques for raising a baby tell you everything you need to know...until you have a baby! We'll share things we have learned and how we adjust universal principles to our small school. Adapt some of our ideas to your campus, and give us ideas we might apply on ours. There are exceptional people in both settings and people are our real business. Let's talk about principles, physical plant, projects, and people.

Session B. “I don't talk Vic” (1:40-2:30 pm)

Vic is the TAMUG Writing Lab's faculty adviser, and the speaker was a new writing coach. Another coach responded, “I talk Vic-come on, I'll translate.” Admittedly, some of us (faculty) don't speak student at times, and some students may not speak Professor fluently. Peer educators are translators; they speak both, and yet neither....Here are some things we've learned about handling the tightrope of being not quite Professor and sometimes not quite student. It is an emotional roller coaster...and the payoff is that as we grow we understand both professors and students, and we begin to understand ourselves. Let's share experiences...all of us can be translators.