

**Official Newsletter of the NW CRLA****Second Annual NW CRLA Conference**

Sheri McIntyre, NWCRLA Secretary  
Linn-Benton Community College

Our chapter gathered for the second annual conference on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, with a pre-conference the evening of Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. What a great opportunity it was to gather as colleagues, networking and discussing shared experiences, achievements and challenges!

Attendance was nearly double this year compared to that of 2016. In fact, due to space, we were required to cap registration at 84. We are hopeful this trend will continue and are discussing larger space needs for future conferences.

Our keynote this year was, Dominique Meeks, co-founder and creative director for Ambassador Stories. Dominique's engaging speech focused on his experience in Seattle and Southeast Washington, supporting community building and bridging the STEM/STEAM access gap for students in title one schools. The executive officers were honored to have such a dynamic and thought provoking keynote and hope others found his talk to be equally enjoyable.

Yet another milestone was achieved this year in regard to workshop presenters. The planning committee was ambitious and added a fourth strand to the conference workshops, focusing on diversity and inclusion. This year we received a record number of submissions and responses to our call for proposals and were able to fill all twelve presenter spots. Presentations were packed with great information and the executive officers want to thank all who took the time to craft and submit proposals, as well as present. We are hopeful this trend will continue as well!

A survey to those who attended went out this week and the planning committee truly values and considers feedback. This year we implemented on-line registration/payment and refined the menu, both direct results of feedback from last year's survey results. Please send us your thoughts! In addition, if you'd like to help plan and organize next year's conference, we'd love to have you! Please reach out to Liz Coleman, President-Elect ([colemanl@lanecc.edu](mailto:colemanl@lanecc.edu))

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## A Note from our President

Jennifer Silkey  
Chemeketa Community College

A great problem to have...

As most of you heard at the conference, we doubled the attendance. In fact, due to the capacity of the facility, we had to close registration early. We are planning to hold next year's conference at the same location (and survey responses indicate May will be the month of choice). Fortunately, University of Portland has facilities large enough to accommodate our growth. Over the next year, we will be offering you many opportunities to spread the word to peers and colleagues!

Speaking of the survey, please submit your responses. We want to tailor the conference and organization activities to you! Quick link to the survey, here: [2017 Conference Survey](#)

I will be attending the national conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Look for a local chapter meeting and events just for our region.

Congratulations to our new President-Elect, Liz Coleman. Liz is a very experienced center director and she brings great enthusiasm to our organization. I bet she is feeling a little overwhelmed right now, but I say with absolute confidence that she will find fabulous support from Sabrina, Jeffrey, Sheri and myself. The single most rewarding aspect of my involvement with Northwest CRLA has been working with the dedicated, passionate and caring leaders. Chareane, Sabrina, Jeffrey, Sheri and Liz....you are what makes this all worth it!

I'd like also to thank, especially Sabrina, on behalf of the board, for her dynamic leadership, creativity and energy in her role as our chapter president this past year.

Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended by diligence.

## Leadership Opportunities:

### Conference Planning Committee

If you're interested in helping plan next year's conference, please contact Liz,  
[colemanl@lanecc.edu](mailto:colemanl@lanecc.edu)

### Keynote Selection Committee

If you'd like to help with selection of a keynote speaker for the conference contact Liz,  
[colemanl@lanecc.edu](mailto:colemanl@lanecc.edu)

### Operations Committee

This committee will help further some of the organization's non-conference related interests. Please contact Jennifer,  
[Jennifer.Silkey@chemeketa.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Silkey@chemeketa.edu)

## 2017-18 NW CRLA Board

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[white@up.edu](mailto:white@up.edu)

## Membership Meeting – May 2017

Sheri McIntyre, NWCRLA Secretary

Our annual membership meeting was held in conjunction with the conference from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, Saturday, May 24, 2017. As our chapter has become active again after an extended hiatus, the executive board has been diligently working to accomplish several tasks throughout the past year.

**Grants** – This year our chapter applied for, and received, two grants from our parent organization, CRLA. Monies, totaling about \$1500 dollars were used to support the coordination and organization of the conference.

**NW CRLA Webpage** (<http://www.nwcrla.com>) – With the help of her staff at Pierce College, our past president, Sabrina Stevenson, was able to develop a dynamic webpage for our organization. The webpage hosts information about the annual conference, including payment options, but also includes a members' only blog and resource library.

**Incorporation** – Jeffrey White, our chapter treasurer, has successfully gained incorporation for our organization with the state of Washington.

**Quarterly Newsletters** – With contributions from executive board members, Sheri McIntyre (Secretary), has produced chapter newsletters for distribution via email. These are sent out each quarter and members can be added to our mailing list on our webpage: <http://www.nwcrla.com/resources>

**By-Laws** – The executive officers would like to update language in our by-laws and constitution. Proposed changes will be sent to members for a vote. Voting will be open for one month before adoption of approved changes or revisions.

**Thank you, RoeAnn** - A moment was given to acknowledge the hard work and diligence of our past treasurer, RoeAnn Davis (Math Faculty, Columbia Basin CC). Her diligence over the 7 year chapter hiatus meant bank accounts were kept open, taxes were done and the necessary paperwork was filed to keep our chapter in good standing. We thank her for her silent dedication, an essential piece to our new beginning.

## Introducing Liz Coleman

Liz Coleman, Lane Community College

I am honored to accept the role of President Elect for NW CRLA. I was hired at Lane Community College in 1996 to create a comprehensive tutoring program and have been overseeing its growth and development ever since. We became CRLA certified in 1997 and we have been certified at all three levels since 2007. Our main campus has ten separate centers and I work with all the coordinators individually and collaboratively to uphold best practices identified by CRLA while meeting the student's unique needs in each academic department. We serve about 2,500 students each year.

My passion is helping students learn how to learn and to grow self-confidence in every way. In addition to teaching the tutor certification classes, I lead the new faculty orientation program and have enjoyed teaching College Success (Skip Downing) and Effective Learning. I love inspirational quotes and have a wall full of them for students to read, take and contribute. One example, "Nothing in life has happened to you. It's happened for you. Every disappointment. Every wrong. Even every closed door has helped make you into who you are." ~ Joel Osteen

On a personal note, I live in Eugene with my husband of 29 years, and our 4 cats. We have 2 adult children who are finding their way. In addition to my family, my other greatest joy is my flower garden.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve the NW region of CRLA members.  
Sincerely,  
Liz Coleman  
Tutoring Services Coordinator  
Lane Community College

## Tutor's Perspective: NWCRLA Regional Conference

Dane Frank, Peer Tutor  
Chemeketa Community College

Imagine if you will, a hive of bees. Each bee independent but part of a whole, each jumping from flower to flower, returning its findings to the hive at the end of the day. Now imagine those bees, queens and drones alike, coming together with other hives to share findings. That is what the conference reminded me of: a great many hives coming together to share what they've found.

When asked what I got from the conference, the answer was, perspective. Tutoring centers all have different methods and techniques but the tutors involved share the same goal. We all want to improve our craft and learning through the experiences of others is a great way to do that. Knowing that even if one were to transfer schools, there would be a place like the one you left is comforting. Knowing they have tools you haven't thought of yet is exciting.

The atmosphere is one of a collective buzz, excited but not overwhelmingly loud. Tutors greeted annual acquaintances like far flung family. That energy made it easier to engage with sessions. The presenters were clearly excited to be there, whether they were leading a discussion or sharing new techniques.

The key is to keep company only with people who uplift you, whose presence calls forth your best.

Epicurus

## Tutor's Perspective: CRLA National Conference

Kellen Lignier, Peer Tutor  
Chemeketa Community College

As spring term winds down and summer starts to heat up, it's hard to think about fall. As sure as the sun sets, summer will end. This means plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> National CRLA conference at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania are already being finalized! Attending the NWCRLA conference this spring was inspiring enough, but imagine four days of informative conferences, opportunities to explore and exchange ideas with like-minded learning professionals.

The Jubilee Conference, "Celebrating 50 Years of Building Bridges", gives a little nod toward our profession and the city of Pittsburg's skyline defining feature, its bridges. In comparison to past conferences, the program organizers went all out with: tours of local facilities, diverse presenters, inspiring Keynote speakers and of course, hundreds of workshops, roundtables, lectures and presentations. All to help you and your school continue to develop your school's learning centers. This conference will not disappoint.

While it's too late to submit a proposal for presenting at this event, it's not too late to register to attend. Registration opens July 5<sup>th</sup> and early registration continues through September 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition, you can extend your school's generosity by becoming a sponsor and purchasing advertising space on the bags or in the program. You can also encourage one of your vendors (furniture, books, and online resources) to purchase an exhibit booth.

This will be an amazing opportunity and we hope you will be able to attend!



## Growing Pains Gains

Jeffrey White, NWCRLA Treasurer  
University of Portland

### **Our membership has grown**

The Northwest CRLA membership fee is included in our conference registration. Since we nearly doubled our conference turnout from last year, our membership now stands at 81 members. We currently have 44 student/part-time members and 37 full-time professional staff members.

### **...and we're more financially secure**

As the Northwest CRLA treasurer, I'm happy to inform our members that our organization's financial health is also improving. Our conference brought in \$4,764.48 in registration fees (after the square.com processing fees) and incurred \$3,206.26 in expenses. We netted 1,243.73, which our organization can use for future programming and operations. In addition, we anticipate reimbursement from a national CRLA grant of approximately \$750.00.

On the more mundane side of treasurer activity, we closed out our old Northwest CRLA account in Spokane Valley, Washington and transferred the \$1,222.84 to our new US Bank account in Portland. This brings our current account balance to \$3,327.11. We also are holding in an additional \$1,397.13 in our account that was in the old account for the now disbanded Northwest Association for Developmental Education. Our board will be in contact with the national NADE group to determine how best to deal with these latter funds.

We do anticipate expenses related to maintaining our website, e-commerce functions, insurance, and other administrative expenses, but all in all, we are in good financial shape.

Create some lollipop moments....

Check out this TED talk:  
[Everyday Leadership with Drew Dudley](#)

## Presidential Reflection

Sabrina Stevenson, NWCRLA Past President  
Pierce College

It's hard for me to believe that it has already been a year since I was asked to serve as your chapter president. The day I was "elected" is still so vivid in my mind, it feels like it was only yesterday. When I was asked if I would accept the nomination to be the NWCRLA chapter president, I had no idea what that entailed nor if I could handle the additional responsibility along with my already crazy work schedule and school obligations – I've been pursuing my master's degree this whole time. But, my passion for serving students won out and I said, "Sure, why not." Then, I was immediately chastised when I got home for taking on too much.

I won't say it was always easy, but I will say it was always rewarding. When I look back at all our team has accomplished, I am proud to say I was your president. With the help of an amazing board, we have become a featured chapter of the CRLA organization, secured two \$1000 grants, pulled off our best conference yet, and I learned how to build an interactive website! Watching the audience respond to the inspiring words spoken by our keynote, Domonique Meeks, then carry that energy through the workshops as they shared their ideas and challenges was confirmation that I made the right decision.

Our motto here at the Pierce College tutoring centers is Together We Achieve More. These words are also at the heart of the NWCRLA mission; they are the foundation for everything we do. Our sole purpose is to provide an inclusive platform of collaboration and engagement for any who share a passion for education and a dedication to service. I feel proud of where we are as an organization and excited about the direction in which we are headed. It may be the end of my tenure as president, but it is only the beginning our journey as a chapter.