

SPRING 2023 | ISSUE 4

NCTE/CCCC BLACK CAUCUS NEWSLETTER

The latest news, views, and announcements from Black scholars in NCTE/CCCC



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2023 Chairs' Address

This has been a year of Black Caucus dynamism. In addition to electing a new board of BC officers last spring and designing robust programming to meet the needs of our members, our very own Staci Perryman-Clark served as the 2023 CCCC Chair. From workshops on grant writing, demystifying the fellowship and grants application process, and book publishing to weekly writing hours and a curated Black Caucus bibliography, the BC has and will continue to work diligently as it attends to calls for programming that provides for members' professional advancement and success.

2022-2023 has been a year of intensity and adjustment. As the first full year of the COVID era in which higherEd has declared a full return to faculty, staff, and student operations, we again find ourselves battling for our lives as a disinformation campaign against Critical Race Theory has led to the eradication of not only diversity, inclusion, and equity officers, offices, and programs, but also programs in Black and Queer Studies.

This spring, Republican governor Ron DeSantis strengthened the disinformation campaign against critical thought and historical truth when he signed a flurry of bills defunding diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public institutions in Florida. Florida is not alone in its campaign against honest conversation around legacies of racial and gender oppression in America. Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Tennessee, and South Carolina are included in the list of states that have either introduced or passed anti-DEI and anti-trans legislation. The coordinated attack on Black and queer justice in the form of anti-CRT, anti-trans, and anti-DEI legislation reflects a growing push towards authoritarianism. The NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus stands in solidarity with educators, practitioners, scholars, and academic professionals who find themselves the targets of this legislation and who continue to organize against the rightist effort to keep the nation sleep. In an effort to provide for both the Caucus and the CCCC, the Black Caucus is doing its part by working with the CCCC Social Justice Convention Committee (SJAC) to produce programming that places CCCC members in conversation with officials from organizations already operating at the frontlines of this battle. Later this summer, prior to the start of the school year, the CCCC will present two webinars that place members in conversation with leaders who can both provide advice on strategizing against "anti-woke" legislation and the results of its targeting. Please stay tuned for more information this summer regarding this programming and more.

Ersula J. Ore
Alexis McGee
NCTE/CCCC Co-Chairs

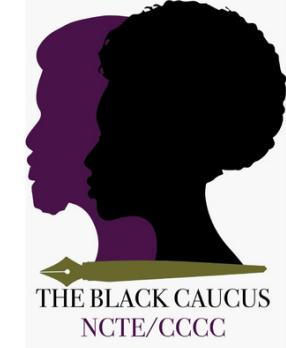


Chinedu Agbo Wins Prestigious Geneva Smitherman Award

Chinedu Agbo, PhD student in Temple University's College of Liberal Arts, is this year's Geneva Smitherman award for his essay titled "Being Black in White America: An Afrocentric Examination of "Black Lives Matter" in W.E. B. Du Bois's The Problem of the Color Line."



Agbo's submission demonstrates the commitment to GSA efforts, particularly a commitment to community activism through the "raising awareness and educating the public about Black languages, literacies, cultures, and/or rhetorics." As the nominee's letter writer notes, "He has dedicated himself and his research to doing [this] for years." This is evident in the applicant's research profile and his three publications and work with UNESCO and his partnership with the Mexican embassy in Nigeria. This awardee's writing sample grapples with and "discuss[es] the idea and concept of being black in White America, examining "Black Lives Matter" from an Afrocentric perspective with emphasis on W. E. B. Du Bois's 'the Problem of the Colorline', using data from Africological and Afrocentric sources." The NCTE/CCCC BC was impressed by this applicant's work, dedication, and research profile, and we are pleased to offer the 2023 Geneva Smitherman Award to Chinedu Agbo. Congratulations!



Green Wins Honorable Mention for the Geneva Smitherman Award

Nyla Green, PhD Candidate at Towson University, was awarded an honorable mention for the 2023 Geneva Smitherman Award for her work "Uneasy and Overcompensating: An Exploration of Black Women's Experiences in the Workplace." Congratulations!



The Value of The Write Time

Black Caucus Writing Hours--A Testimonial

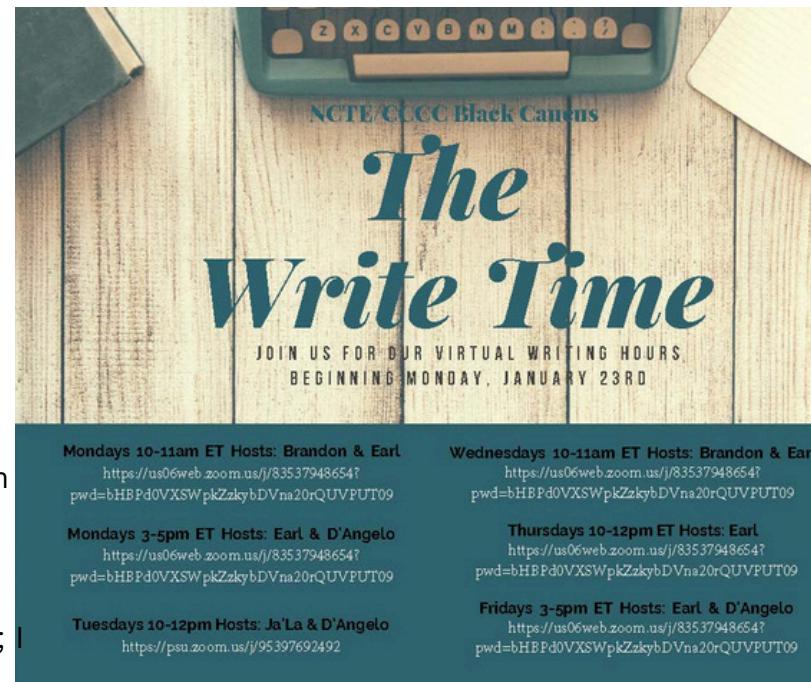
I finished writing the full first draft of my Prospectus this week!

Regularly going to the NCTE Black Caucus Daily Writing Group was integral to the completion of this milestone. Y'all don't understand! I have been working on this document for a minute now. Over multiple semesters have gone by while I have grappled with negotiating my roles as the instructor of record and being a doctoral student; I was struggling with articulating my dissertation

project. I was encouraged by a Black Caucus committee member to commit to coming to the Writing Group, and after the first week, I had more clarity about my own project and confidence in my capacity to do this work. I have received awesome resources and so much feedback from regular attendance. This space has also provided me an opportunity to see how my ideas land on audiences outside of my program. Having to explain and re-explain my project helped me in understanding and articulating my own project. I am a believer!

"THE WRITING HOURS HAVE BEEN A GREAT WAY TO MEET BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS WHILE ALSO MAKING PROGRESS ON VARIOUS WRITING PROJECTS. I HAVE ENJOYED CULTIVATING AN ONLINE COMMUNITY THAT IS WELCOMING AND ENERGETIC, AND I USED OUR DEDICATED WRITING TIME TO FINISH A DRAFT OF A JOURNAL ARTICLE THIS SEMESTER."

BRANDON M. ERBY, PH.D.
(HE/HIM/HIS)
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF WRITING,
RHETORIC, AND DIGITAL STUDIES
PROGRAM IN AFRICAN AMERICAN
AND AFRICANA STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



The Daily Writing Group really is a transformative space—or at least, that's my experience of it. I use this word 'transformative' to describe my experience intentionally and with forethought, because that's truly how I feel: as if I've metamorphized into a scholar with insightful contributions. And it's not transformative just because it's a writing group space, cuz those are relatively easy to find and/or create nowadays. What makes the Black Caucus Daily Writing Group so formative to my professional development and intellectual growth is that everyone there is rooting for you just because you exist.

I can't tell you how much time I've spent explaining, contextualizing, translating my thoughts for faculty and students in my program who don't understand where I'm coming from. In Writing Group, however, it is a given that my ideas, my knowledge, are valid. My experiences aren't automatically undermined or called into question. Off the rip, I felt seen in that space. And lemme tell you, it has made my writing process feel so much more manageable.

And shoutout to the Black Caucus members who hold this space every week. They be droppin gems!

Lerie M. Gabriel
PhD Candidate, Syracuse University

2022-2023 Fall and Spring Events

NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus Somebody Bout to Get that Grant Money, It Might as Well be You

Friday, February 24th
2pm - 4pm ET (11am - 1pm PT)

This 2-hour interactive grant workshop will help faculty and future faculty generate grant proposals in the humanities and social science areas. Participants will gain a overview of (a) networking with potential collaborators, (b) getting to know program officers in the early stages of the process, (c) identifying grants that align with priorities, (d) developing proposal components, e.g. abstract, significance, pur models, plans, (e) obtaining peer feedback, and (f) submitting completed pro

The last half hour of this workshop will consist of an interactive planning session in which participants will brainstorm and share ideas. Participants should take our pre-workshop survey by February 17th to attend, please register by Friday, February 17th at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZesdGrpJ8rG9e>

Scan QR code for direct links:



About Your Hosts



Sherita V. Roundtree
Towson University



Anne Charity
Hudley
Stanford U

APPLYING FOR AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS WORKSHOP

PRESENTER: DR. SHERITA V. ROUNDTREE,
TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Dr. Roundtree will discuss fellowship and award opportunities from various professional networks, organizations, and learned societies that support the work of Black graduates and junior faculty. She will also discuss using databases and social media to find relevant fellowships and awards in composition, rhetoric, and/or literacy (as well as interdisciplinary, complementary fields).

WEDNESDAY, 11/16/22, 6-7 P.M. EST VIA ZOOM
To attend, please register by 11/1/22
at the following link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdeigqDwsHdIZxT3ddBuF>

NCTE/CCCC Black Caucus Presents THE FIRST BOOK WORKSHOP

GUEST PRESENTER: DR. LOUIS MARAJ
WEDNESDAY, 11/2/22, 6:00-7:30 P.M. EST
VIA ZOOM
HOSTS: DR. BRANDON ERBY, DR. ALEXIS MCGEE,
DR. MUDIWA PETTUS

TO ATTEND, PLEASE REGISTER AT THE
FOLLOWING LINK:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tfuORTSPHD23H9XLYT_8M41RQ_AQG-WD

The Write Time

JOIN US FOR OUR VIRTUAL WRITING HOURS
BEGINNING MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD

Mondays 10-11am ET Hosts: Brandon & Earl
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83537948654?pwd=bHBPd0VXSWpk2zkybDVn20rQUVFUT09>

Mondays 3-5pm ET Hosts: Earl & D'Angelo
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83537948654?pwd=bHBPd0VXSWpk2zkybDVn20rQUVFUT09>

Tuesdays 10-12pm Hosts: Ja'La & D'Angelo
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83537948654?pwd=bHBPd0VXSWpk2zkybDVn20rQUVFUT09>

su cite CROWDSOURCING THE BL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scan QR code for link(s)

JOIN US FOR A HAPPY HOUR WITH A PURPOSE!
The Black Caucus Bibliography is a crowdsourced archive of scholarship produced by Black scholars in the rhetoric, composition, and communication studies fields of inquiry. The bibliography will serve as a pedagogical and advocacy tool.

Spring Dates: February 1 - 6PM EST • ZOOM
March 29 - 6PM EST • ZOOM

Register for the February date at the following link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuyuq28rHd0cf6ASZ7Fv_UtGPHPh1b

For more information, email Cecilia Shelton at sheltonc@um.edu or Mudiwa Pettus at mpettus@mec.cuny.edu.

WIDE

AGEST

RHETORICAL KINSHIP AND NARRATIVE ETHNOGRAPHIES IN BLACK MENTORSHIP IN COMPOSITION STUDIES

Request for Participants

About this project: This project seeks to collect data for an analysis of how Black scholars in composition studies received mentorship from other Black scholars in the field. This data collection phase consists of recording interviews with both established and emerging Black scholars in fields such as composition studies, literacy studies, rhetoric, professional writing, and African-American studies.

Generally, participants in the research (interviewees) will be practicing faculty in the field of composition studies and other related fields. Broadly, participants will self-identify as Black; will have published academic, peer-reviewed research; will possess a PhD in composition studies or related fields. Participants will be financially compensated for participation.

Interview Process:

- Participants will be interviewed in-person at CCCC in February.
- Participants will be recorded via microphone and digital camera for approximately 45-60 minutes, responding to questions posed by the interviewer.
- Participants will consent to being recorded and will consent to the living of the audiovisual material. At a later stage, analysis is completed and published, a subsequent participant will be compensated \$200 CAD.

Participants will be compensated \$200 CAD.

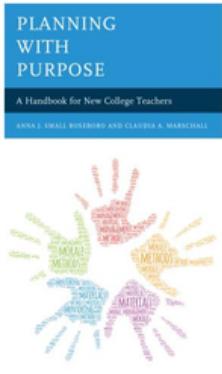
For more information, email LAURA A. MORRIS LAURIA10@YORKU.CA OR CHRIS MORRIS CHRIS.MORRIS3@YORKU.CA



Black Caucus Buzz



Recent Publications



- **Anna J. Roseboro** *Planning With Purpose: A Handbook for New College Teachers* 2021
- **Ersula Ore** “Twenty-First Century Discourses of American Lynching” 2022
- **Brenda Eatman Aghahowa** “Sankofa: Approaches to Non-Standardized English Writing Pedagogy” July 2022
- **Lisa E. Wright** “Establishing and Maintaining a Sustainable AntiRacist Writing Center at a PWI Writing Center: Our Journey of Becoming” Spring 2022
 - “Renewing our Feminist Efforts Through Relationship and Coalition-Building from Difference: What Can Happen at the Center,” with Anna Sicari and Allyn Bernkopf, January 2023

Presentations

- **Dr. Brenda Eatman Aghahowa** presented a paper on Black language issues and pedagogy for the Oxford Round Table in England in July 2022
- **Brandon M. Erby** presented at the second annual Emmett Till Archives Lecture Series
- **Anna J. Roseboro** presented at the University of Georgia’s JoLLE Conference 2022 and 2023 as a guest speaker on “Quip Corner with Ada” for World Book and Copyright Day with Ada Adeleke-Kelani discussing Experience Poems And Pictures: Poems That Paint: Pictures that Speak https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2i1ha2eJa_U

Editorial Work and Service

- **Ersula Ore, Kimberly Wieser, and Christina Cedillo** co-edited an issue on “Diversity is not an End Game: BIPOC Futures in the Academy,” *Present Tense*, 9.2 (2022)
- **Anna J. Roseboro** is serving on the Editorial Review Board of *English Journal* for National Council of Teachers of English

Book Reviews

- **Lisa E. Wright** “Radical Writing Center Praxis: A Paradigm for Ethical Political Engagement,” with Dr. Anna Sicari, Fall 2022



Black Caucus Buzz



Awards

Congratulations to the winners of the National Writing Contest – Celebrating Black Writers

WILLIAM LOHIER MARIAN JONES

ELIJAH ELVIN REBECCA BEAVER

William Lohier, First Place, Higher Education
Marian Jones, Second Place, Higher Education
Elijah Elvin, First Place, High School
Rebecca Beaver, Second Place, High School

The Center for Black Literature
University of Pittsburgh
School of Education
NCTE

- **William Lohier** awarded 2022 Higher Education First Place and the winner of a \$4,000 prize in the National Writing Contest by The Center for Black Literature (CBL) at Medgar Evers College in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Education
<https://ncte.org/celebrating-black-writers/>
- **Marian Jones** awarded 2022 Higher Education Second Place and winner of a \$2,000 prize in the National Writing Contest by The Center for Black Literature (CBL) at Medgar Evers College in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Education
<https://ncte.org/celebrating-black-writers/>
- **Lisa E. Wright** awarded Geneva Smitherman Award for Research in Black Language, Literacies, Cultures, and Rhetorics, 2022.
- **Elijah Elvin** awarded 2022 High School First Place and the winner of a \$3,000 prize in the National Writing Contest by The Center for Black Literature (CBL) at Medgar Evers College in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Education
<https://ncte.org/celebrating-black-writers/>
- **Rebecca Beaver** awarded 2022 High School Second Place and the winner of a \$1,500 prize in the National Writing Contest by The Center for Black Literature (CBL) at Medgar Evers College in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Education
<https://ncte.org/celebrating-black-writers/>
- **Stephanie Jones** awarded The Rhetoric Society of America 2023 Dissertation Award for “Afrofuturist Feminism as Theory and Praxis: Rhetorical Root Working in the Black Speculative Arts Movement.”



Black Caucus Buzz



Institutional Appointments

- **Dr. Constance Haywood** was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of English at East Carolina University in Fall 2022
- **Dr. Brenda Eatman Aghahowa** of Chicago State University was appointed Chairperson of the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Interdisciplinary Programs in July 2022.
- **Dr. Brenda Eatman Aghahowa** was promoted to the rank of Full Professor in August 2022
- **Anna J. Roseboro** was appointed as a mentor/coach for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- **Lisa E. Wright** was appointed Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University, July 2022
- **Dr. Alicia K. Hatcher** was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition at Syracuse University, August, 2022

Acknowledgments

- **Anna J Roseboro** is participating with NCTE/BCCC's The Write Time program
- **Lisa E. Wright** defended dissertation "The Ring of Fire: A Memoir," Oklahoma State University, May 2022

Congratulations on Your Achievements!

Financial Report



Starting Balance for 2023 Treasury Report \$11,237.27

Account earnings (includes membership dues) \$688.67

Expenses \$1515.31

- \$82.32: BC Memberships for 4 graduate students serving on the Communications Team
- \$89.94: Zoom Account (2/15, 1/17, 12/16, 11/16, 10/17, 9/16)
- \$65.00: CCCC Registration for graduate student service on the Communications Team
- \$500.00: 2022 Distribution of Smitherman Award
- \$149.90: Zoom account for facilitator of Writing Hour
- \$128.15: Wireless square hardware purchase
- \$500.00: 2023 Distribution of Geneva Smitherman Award

Ending Balance for 2023 Treasury Report \$10,410.63

Pictures from the 2023 Conference on College Composition and Communication



Stay connected with the Black Caucus:

