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Center Will Hold

Michael Pemberton

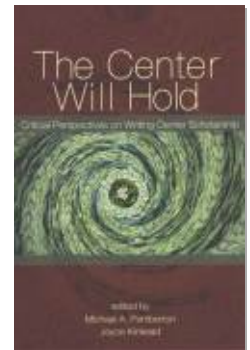
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We teach more by what we are than by what we teach.

WILL DURANT

Whenever we talk about writing centers, we almost always refer to the *community* of writing centers, indicative of the close-knit ties among those who direct and staff these campus units. The community concept is especially important since, as writing center directors typically remark, "there is only one of us on any campus." Thus, reaching out, listening to others, and asking for advice are common, as are conference reunions over breakfast.

Both of us have benefitted from the generosity and expertise of our colleagues over the years, which have contributed to our own professional development. While neither one of us was attending conferences as early as Muriel Harris was in the 1970s, she, in particular, has been our most faithful supporter, sharer of knowledge, and role model. Mickey hosted the Writing Centers Association conference in Purdue in 1984, the event that was to result in the formation of the NCTE-sanctioned National Writing Centers Association, an organization that has been a mooring to both of us. To say that she has enriched our professional and personal lives would be an understatement. For us, Mickey is the very model of a writing center director, aptly named "exemplar" by the CCCC Awards Committee in 2000.

Other colleagues have been instrumental as well, especially through the NWCA (re-named International Writing Centers Association) meetings and conferences: Pamela Farrell Childers, Mildred Steele, Bonnie Sunstein, Jay Jacoby, Harvey Kail, Nancy Grimm, Byron Stay, Eric Hobson, Jon Olson, Paula Gillespie, Leigh Ryan, Brad Hughes, and others far too numerous to name.

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We offer this book to the writing center community as a tribute to our exemplary colleague, Mickey Harris.

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Statesboro, Georgia
Logan, Utah

