

# Don Unger

Department of Writing, Rhetoric & Speech,  
University of Mississippi

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## Education

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PhD, English	Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN	Aug. 2015
MA, English	University of Alaska-Anchorage, Anchorage, AK	May 2010
BA, Professional Writing	State University of New York at Cortland, NY	May 2005
AA, Liberal Arts	Broome Community College, Binghamton, NY	Dec. 2003

## Academic Appointments

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Assistant Professor	University of Mississippi Department of Writing & Rhetoric	Aug. 2018–present
Affiliate Faculty	University of Mississippi Department of Women & Gender Studies	Jan. 2019–present
Affiliate Faculty	University of Mississippi Community Engaged Leadership, Interdisciplinary Minor	Apr. 2021–present
Assistant Professor	St. Edward's University, Department of Literature, Writing & Rhetoric	Aug. 2015–May 2018

## Additional Training

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Graphic Novel Development Intensive: Comics Workshop	Sequential Artists Workshop Tom Hart & Jess Ruliffson (Instructors) Gainesville, FL	June–Dec. 2023 & 2021
Comics Projects	School of Visual Arts Carl Potts (Instructor) New York, NY	Sept.–Dec. 2022 June–Aug. 2021 Jan.–May 2021
Comics with Josh & Hyena	Sequential Artists Workshop Josh Bayer & Hyena Hell (Instructors) Gainesville, FL	Oct.–Nov. 2022
Your Story Matters: Comics Workshop	Sequential Artists Workshop Leela Corman (Instructor) Gainesville, FL	Jan.–Feb. 2022
Cartooning for Beginners	92Y Cultural & Community Center Josh Bayer (Instructor) New York, NY	May 2021

## Publications

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### Book

*Words and Smiles: An Autobiographic Intervention into Academic Professionalization.* (proposal accepted full ms review)

### Refereed Articles & Chapters

"The Homophobic Imagination in the South Today." *College English*, 2024. (in press)

"Grassroots Activism and Tactical Communities: Examining the Poor People's Corporation in Mississippi in the 1960s and 1970s." *Tactical Approaches to Technical Communication*, edited by Miles Kimball, Hilary Sarat-St. Peter, and Hayley McCullough, State University of New York Press. (in press)

["Antlered Does & Cactus Bucks."](#) *The Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics*, 8(1), Spring 2024.

["Collectors, Storytellers, and Web Pros: Making Comics and Building Community During the Pandemic."](#) *The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship*, 13(1), Jan. 2024.

["Coalition Building Between Subjectivity and Instrumentality: Reflecting on My Experiences in a Militant, Trotskyist Women's Rights Group in the 1990s."](#) *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric & Composition*, 26(1), Fall 2023.

["Words and Smiles: Making Comics During the Pandemic."](#) *The Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics*, 6(2), Summer 2022.

["Free Pride Hugs."](#) *Community Literacy Journal*, 16(2), Spring 2022, pp. 181–186.

"Considering Global Communication and Usability as Networked Engagement: Lessons from 4C4Equality." *Thinking Globally, Composing Locally: Rethinking Online Writing in the Age of the Global Internet*, edited by Kirk St. Amant and Rich Rice, Utah State University Press, 2018, pp. 93–114. Co-authored w/ Liz Lane.

["Writing Networks for Social Justice."](#) *Constellations: A Cultural Rhetorics Publishing Space*, 1, Spring 2018. Co-authored w/ Liz Lane.

["Locating Queer Rhetorics: Mapping as Inventional Method."](#) *Computers and Composition*, 38A, Dec. 2015, pp. 96–112. Co-authored w/ Fernando Sanchez.

### Refereed Special Issues

["Volume 1: Coda."](#) *Spark: A Journal of Activism in Writing, Rhetoric & Literacy Studies*, 1(2), Sept. 2019. Co-edited w/ Liz Lane.

["Volume 1: Introduction."](#) *Spark: A Journal of Activism in Writing, Rhetoric & Literacy Studies*, vol. 1(1), Mar. 2019. Co-edited w/ Liz Lane.

## Reviews & Other Academic Publications

- ["Distributed Definition Building and the Coalition for Community Writing."](#) *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric & Composition*, 25(4), Summer 2023. Co-authored w/ Veronica House (lead), Sweta Baniya, Paul Feigenbaum, Megan Hartline, Lisa King, Seán McCarthy, Maria Novotny, Jessica Restaino, Sherita V. Roundtree, Daniel Singer, Lara Smith-Sitton, Karen Tellez-Trujillo, Bernardita M. Yunis Varas, Kate Vieira, Ada Vilageliu-Díaz, Stephanie Wade, and Christopher Wilke.
- ["Digital Divides Curated Artifact: Instructional Video Project."](#) *Digital Pedagogy in the Humanities: Concepts, Models, and Experiments*, edited by Rebecca Frost Davis, Matthew K. Gold, Katherine D. Harris, and Jentery Sayers, Modern Language Association, 2018.
- ["Networked Organizing, Local Engagement: Talking Equality at 4C15's Action Hub."](#) *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*, 20(2), 2016.
- ["Alexander and Rhodes' 'Techne: Queer Meditations on Writing the Self.'" Sweetland Digital Rhetoric Collaborative.](#) Computers & Writing Conference Session Reviews, 2014.
- ["Blackmon's 'Your Code Ain't Like Mine: On Being #thatgirl in Technology Intensive Fields.'" Sweetland Digital Rhetoric Collaborative.](#) Computers & Writing Conference Session Reviews, 2014.

## Non-Academic Articles

- ["On Barry Blair, Founder of Aircel Comics."](#) SewerMutant.com, 17 Jan. 2022.

## Multimodal Work

- "Into the Black." *Troubled Histories: A SAW Anthology*, Sequential Artists Workshop, 2024. (comic)
- "Central Gardens." [Where You Live: A SAW Anthology](#), Sequential Artists Workshop, 2024. (comic)
- "Words and Smiles (excerpt 2)." [Push/Pull: SAW 2023 Graphic Novel intensive Anthology](#), Sequential Artists Workshop, 2024. (comic)
- "Antlered Does & Cactus Bucks." [In the News Again: A SAW Nonfiction Anthology](#), Sequential Artists Workshop, 2023. (comic)
- "Memphis Gay Bars." [Radical Faerie Digest, 193](#), Spring 2023, pp. 20–23. (comic)
- "Generation Gap." [Scarfff: Quarterly Comics Anthology](#), 12, Nov. 2022. (comic)
- ["Interview with Wendy Pini, Co-Creator of Elfquest."](#) Hosted by the Sequential Artists Workshop, Oct. 2022. (video)
- "Words and Smiles (excerpt)." [Iterations: SAW 2021 Graphic Novel Intensive Anthology](#), Sequential Artists Workshop, 2022. (comic)
- [Creating Coalitional Gestures. Season 1, Episode 5.](#) Co-hosted a special episode of the podcast w/ Liz Lane, 5 Aug. 2021. (podcast)
- ["Reconnoitering: Looking Back Over the 'A Year in Activism' Blog Series and What Lies Ahead."](#) *Teacher-Scholar-Activist*, 3 Nov. 2020. Co-authored w/ Liz Lane. (blog post)

["Standing Against Anti-Black Racism Within and Beyond the Academy: Amplifying Strategies for Action."](#) *Teacher-Scholar-Activist*, 19 June 2020. Co-authored w/ Liz Lane. Reprinted in Vershawn Ashanti Young's (2021) *This Ain't Yesterday's Literacy: Culture and Education After George Floyd*. (blog post)

[The 4C4E Checklists](#). Conference on College Composition & Communication Strategic Action Taskforce, edited by Steve Parks, 2018. (blog post and video)

["Writing Networks for Social Justice: A Brief History of 4C4Equality."](#) *Teacher-Scholar-Activist*, 18 Oct. 2017. Co-authored w/ Liz Lane. (blog post)

[Teta: A Nursing Mother Tells Her Story](#). Dir. Alexandra Hidalgo. Sabana Grande Productions, 2016. Camera and Electrical Dept. (video)

## Interviews

Altounian, David & Sarah Sharif. ["Embracing the Hackathon in Higher Education."](#) *Huffington Post*, 23 Oct. 2017.

## Presentations (since 2018)

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"Collectors, Storytellers, and Web Pros: Making Comics and Building Community." Comic Arts Conference at Comic-Con International, San Diego, CA: July 2024.

"Everyone Knows It Turns Ya Poly-Queer: Sexuality and Gender Identity and Expression in *Elfquest*." Comics and Popular Arts Conference at DragonCon, Atlanta, GA: Sept. 2023.

"Connecting Communities and Universities through Community Literacy Centers: Goals and Models." Transitioning to College Writing Symposium, Oxford, MS: Oct. 2022.

"Action/Adventure, Fantasy, LGBTQ: Sexuality and Gender Identity and Expression in *Elfquest*." Comic Arts Conference at Comic-Con International, San Diego, CA: July 2022.

"Increasing Equity, Access, and Care in Scholarly Publishing, an AMA." Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, IL: Mar. 2022.

"Digital Literacy, Writing Centers, and Community Engagement in the Mississippi Delta." Transitioning to College Writing Symposium, Oxford, MS: Oct. 2021. (online)

"From Civil Rights to Black Power: Community Uplift, Commonplaces, and Writing Instruction in Mississippi." Conference on College Composition & Communication, Spokane, WA: Apr. 2021. (online)

"Writing & Rhetoric Beyond Service Courses: Shifting Our Focus at the University of Mississippi." Association of Rhetoric & Writing Studies, Austin, TX: Nov. 2019.

"Accountability in Mississippi's Black Worker-Owned and -Operated Cooperatives as a Model for Technical & Professional Communication." Association of Teachers of Technical Writing, Pittsburgh, PA: Mar. 2019.

"The Poor People's Corporation and Black Women's Leadership in Contemporary Activism." Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference, Oxford, MS: Mar. 2019.

"Stories of Engagement: How Service-Learning Prepares Faculty for Lives of Sustained Engaged Citizenship." Campus Compact National Conference, Indianapolis, IN: Mar. 2018.

"Networked Engagement as a Useful, Glocal Method for Activism: Organizing 4C4Equality." Association of Teachers of Technical Writing, Kansas City, KS: Mar. 2018.

"The Labor of Networks: Writing Infrastructure for Community Engagement." Conference on College Composition and Communication, Kansas City, MO: Mar. 2018.

### **Invited Talks** (since 2018)

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"Looking Forward to Fall Teaching: CTE Faculty Fellows Share Their Expertise." St. Edward's Center for Teaching Excellence, Austin, TX: May 2018.

"On the Elective Community Engagement Classification 2018 Campus Compact Preconference Workshop." New American Colleges & Universities Civic Engagement Constituency Group, online, Apr. 2018.

"Digital Media Assignment Workshop." St. Edward's University's Office of Instructional Technology, Austin, TX: Apr. 2018. (two talks)

### **Poster Sessions** (since 2018)

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"Grassroots Activism and Tactical Communities: Examining the Poor People's Corporation in Mississippi in the 1960s and 1970s." Isom Center for Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Fellow Poster Session, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS: Sept. 2021.

"The Poor People's Corporation: On Black Women's Leadership in Mississippi in the 1960s and 1970s." Isom Center for Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Fellow Poster Session, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS: Sept. 2020. (online)

"Lessons in Community Organizing from Mississippi's Black Worker-Owned & -Operated Cooperatives in the 1960s & '70s." Transitioning to College Writing Symposium, Oxford, MS: Oct. 2019.

### **Workshops & Roundtables** (since 2018)

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#### Facilitator

"Community Writing Mentorship Workshop." Chicago, IL. Conference on College Composition and Communication, Mar. 2022. (online)

"Starting a Conversation about a Community Literacy Center at the University of Mississippi." Department of Writing & Rhetoric Professional Development Workshop, Oxford, MS: Dec. 2021. (online)

"Community Writing Mentorship Workshop." Conference on College Composition & Communication, Spokane, WA: April 2021. (online)

"Training Academic Labor Activists." Conference on College Composition & Communication, Milwaukee, WI: March 2020. Conference canceled: COVID-19.

- "Beyond Matthew Desmond's *Evicted*: Fighting for Social Justice in Milwaukee." Conference on College Composition & Communication, Milwaukee, WI: Mar. 2020. (canceled)
- "Cut, Paste & Copy Your World: An Intro to Self-Publishing Through Zines." Young Writers Conference, Grades 6-8, University of Mississippi Writing Project, Oxford, MS: Jan. 2020.
- "Cut, Paste & Copy Your World: Using Zines to Build Community." Young Writers Conference, Grades 9-12, University of Mississippi Writing Project, Oxford, MS: Nov. 2019.
- "Cut, Paste & Copy Your World: Using Zines to Introduce Community Writing." Transitioning to College Writing Symposium, Oxford, MS: Oct. 2019. (co-facilitated w/ Liz Lane)
- "How Editors Can Build Solidarity and Help Change Scholarly Publishing in Writing, Rhetoric & Literacy Studies." Conference on Community Writing, Philadelphia, PA: Oct. 2019. (co-facilitated w/ Sherri Craig)
- "Exploring Local Activism: A Roundtable Workshop with Local Pittsburgh Activist Organizations." Conference on College Composition and Communication, Pittsburgh, PA: Mar. 2019.
- "Everything You Want to Know About the Experiential Learning for Social Justice Mission Marker." St. Edward's University, Austin, TX: 27 Feb. & 2 Mar. 2018.
- "Documenting Community-Engaged Teaching & Learning: Faculty Learning Community." St. Edward's University. Austin, TX: Sept. 2017–May 2018

## Participant

- Oral History Workshop. Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference, Oxford, MS: March 2019.
- eLearning Training Course. Office of Academic Outreach, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS: Sept.–Nov. 2018.
- Blended & Online Learning for the Arts & Humanities Instructor Certification Workshop. Office of Instructional Technology, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX: Feb.–Apr. 2018.
- "Preparing for the 2020 Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement." Campus Compact National Conference, Indianapolis, IN: March 2018.

## Grants (since 2018)

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- College of Liberal Arts Research & Creative Achievement, University of Mississippi, Summer 2023 (funded)  
\$5000 for work on *Words and Smiles: A Graphic Intervention*
- College of Liberal Arts Research & Creative Achievement, University of Mississippi, Summer 2022 (funded)  
\$5000 for work on *Words and Smiles: A Graphic Intervention*
- Civic Innovation Challenge, Stage 1 Grant, National Science Foundation, 2021 (unfunded)  
\$49,723 for a pilot project mapping the network infrastructure in Quitman County, MS, on which I served on the project team alongside faculty in Computer and Information Science, Sociology, and Pharmacy
- The Way Forward Grant Program, Bringing Theory to Practice, 2021 (unfunded)  
\$8000 for a webinar series called "Bridging Digital Publishing, Activism, and Community Engagement" sponsored by *Spark* on which I served as Co-PI

Advancing Informal STEM Learning Grant Program, National Science Foundation, 2019 (unfunded)  
\$994,868 for a community engagement project titled "Using Digital Literacy to Address Local Needs and Cultivate Informal STEM Learning in the Mississippi Delta" on which I served as PI and which includes faculty and administrative staff from the Depts. of Writing & Rhetoric, Sociology, and Teacher Education as well as the Office of Diversity & Community Engagement, the Center for Research Evaluation, the Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction, the Center for Population Studies, and the Grove Scholars Program

Council of Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication Research Grant, 2019 (unfunded)  
\$2000 for a project titled "Using Archival Documents from the Civil Rights Movement in Professional & Technical Communication Courses"

College of Liberal Arts Research & Creative Achievement, University of Mississippi, Summer 2019 (funded)  
\$6300 for ongoing research

Teaching & Learning with Technology Innovation Grant, St. Edward's University, 2018 (funded)  
\$2450 for a project called "Developing YouTube Channels as Serialized, Online Composition"

## **Fellowships & Awards** (since 2018)

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Community Engaged Faculty Fellow, Center for Community Engagement, University of Mississippi, 2024–2025

Sarah Isom Center for Women & Gender Studies Faculty Fellow, University of Mississippi, 2020–2022

Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Teaching & Learning, St Edward's University, St. Edward's University, 2016–2018

Center for Teaching Excellence Scholarship, Pedagogical Innovation, and Creative Expression (SPICE) Award, St. Edward's University, 2015–2018

## **Teaching**

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### The University of Mississippi

Teaching First-Year Composition (WRIT 617/ENG 617)

Feminist Pedagogy (GST 605)

Writing for Digital Media (WRIT 350)

Community Writing (WRIT 345)

First-Year Writing 2, Theme: Power & Privilege (WRIT 102)

First-Year Writing 1 (WRIT 101)

Introduction to College Writing (WRIT 100)

### St. Edward's University

Current Theories of Rhetoric & Composition (WRIT 4341)

Technical & Business Communication (WRIT 3335)

Writing Online (ENGW 3332)

Document Design (ENGW 2329)

Writing in the Digital Age (WRIT 2311)

Rhetoric & Composition II (WRIT 1302)

Freshman Studies Rhetoric & Composition II: Austin Then & Now (FSTY 1313)

Freshman Studies Rhetoric & Composition II: Sex, Drugs & Counterculture (FSTY 1313)

## Purdue University

Technical Writing (ENGL 421)

Business Writing Online (ENGL 420Y)

Business Writing (ENGL 420)

Computer-Aided Publishing (ENGL 309)

Engaging in Public Discourse (ENGL 108)

Engineering Projects in Community Service (ENGL 106LC)

First-Year Composition (ENGL 106)

## University of Alaska-Anchorage

Methods of Written Communication (ENGL 111A)

## Mentoring

### Dissertation

Rashun Miles, Social Welfare PhD dissertation committee member, University of Mississippi

Margaret Pless, "It's ~~Not~~ Personal: Autotheory, Memoir, and My Study of Literature." English PhD dissertation committee member, University of Mississippi

### Honors Thesis

Thomas Crumley, "Keep Austin Writing: How Professionals Create and Collaborate in the Digital Age." Senior Honors Thesis, St. Edward's University, Spring 2016

### Graduate Directed Study

Stephanie Franks, Content Management & Social Media Strategy." Master of Liberal Arts, St. Edward's University, Fall 2016

## Research Assistants

Michelle Bright, *Spark: A Journal of Writing, Rhetoric & Literacy Studies*, Summer 2019

Sarah Jackson, Center for Teaching Excellence Intern, St. Edward's University, Fall 2017



Shelby Bennett, Social-Media Intern, *Present Tense: A Journal of Rhetoric in Society*, St. Edward's University, Spring 2017

Lauren Ibarra, Social-Media Intern, *Present Tense: A Journal of Rhetoric in Society*, St. Edward's University, Spring 2016

#### Teaching Assistants

Erica Schomer, Freshman Studies Rhetoric & Composition II: Austin Then & Now, St. Edward's University, Fall 2016

Raven Spratt, Freshman Studies Rhetoric & Composition II: Sex, Drugs & Counterculture, St. Edward's University, Fall 2015

Alec Cudmore, Freshman Studies Rhetoric & Composition II: Sex, Drugs & Counterculture, St. Edward's University, Fall 2015

### **Service** (since 2018)

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#### Field

Advisory Board Member, Coalition for Community Writing, 2021–present

Executive Committee Member, Conference on College Composition & Communication Labor Caucus, 2021—present

Managing Editor, [\*Spark: A Journal for Activism in Writing, Rhetoric & Literacy Studies\*](#), 2018–present

Social-Media Editor, [\*Present Tense: A Journal of Rhetoric in Society\*](#), 2012–present

Review Board Member, *Constellations: A Cultural Rhetorics Publishing Space*, 2016–present

Reviewer, *College Composition & Communication*, 2019–present

Reviewer, *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric & Composition*, 2015–present

Co-Chair, Scholars for the Dream Travel Award, Conference on College Composition & Communication, 2022

Historian, Conference on College Composition & Communication Queer Caucus, 2016–2021

Reviewer, Scholars for the Dream Travel Award, Conference on College Composition & Communication, 2021

Member, Social Justice Action Committee, Conference on College Composition & Communication, 2018–2020

Reviewer, *Literacy and Pedagogy in the Age of Mis/Disinformation*, Parlor Press: Writing & Working for Change Series, 2019

Reviewer, *The Political Turn in the Trump Era: Writing, Democracy, and Activism*, Sample chapters, Eds. Carter, Mutnick, Pauszek & Parks, 2019

Judge, Lavender Rhetorics Award Committee, Conference on College Composition & Communication, 2019

Judge, Janice Lauer Award for Best Dissertation Prospectus at Purdue University, 2019

Co-Coordinator, [4C4Equality \(4C4E\)](#), 2013–2018

Reviewer, Cultural Rhetorics Conference, Michigan State University, 2018

Stage 1 Reviewer, Conference on College Composition & Communication, 2014, 2015, 2017 & 2018

## University

Advisor, *Missy: The University of Mississippi's Queer Creative Zine*, Fall 2023–present

Board Member, University of Mississippi's Voting Engagement Roundtable, Fall 2023–present

Judge, Speaker's Edge, University of Mississippi, 2022–2024

Committee Member, Department of Writing & Rhetoric Community Literacy Coordinator Search, Spring 2022

Committee Member, Isom Center for Women's and Gender Studies Instructional Assistant Professor Search, Fall 2021

Committee Chair, Community Engagement Task Force, Department of Writing & Rhetoric, University of Mississippi, Summer 2019–2020

Committee Member, Transitioning to College Writing Symposium Committee, Department of Writing & Rhetoric, University of Mississippi, Fall 2019–2022

Member, Scholarly Writing Community of Practice, Department of Writing & Rhetoric, University of Mississippi, Spring 2019

Member, Service Learning Community of Practice, Department of Writing & Rhetoric, University of Mississippi, Spring 2019

Member, First-Year Writing Teaching Circle, Department of Writing & Rhetoric, University of Mississippi, Fall 2018

Committee Chair, General Education Renewal Requirement Development Group: Experiential Learning for Social Justice, St. Edward's University, 2016–2018

Committee Member, Writing & Rhetoric Program Curriculum Review, St. Edward's University, 2015–2018

Committee Member, Faculty Search for Visiting Assistant Professor of Journalism & Digital Media, St. Edward's University, Spring 2018

Judge, Center for Teaching Excellence Champion Awards for Community Engagement, Diversity, and Global Engagement, St. Edward's University, Spring 2017 & Spring 2018

## Community

Advisory Board Member, *Oxford to the Ballot Box: The 2020 US Presidential Elections*, Oxford, MS, Spring 2020–present

Comics Workshop Facilitator, North Panola School District, Senatobia, MS, Spring 2023

Advisory Board Member, The Marks Project, Marks, MS, Summer 2019–2021

## **Affiliations**

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Coalition for Community Writing (CCW)

Comics Studies Society (CSS)

Conference on College Composition & Communication (CCCC)

Labor Caucus and Queer Caucus, CCCC

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)