

ELRC Notes

Volume 22, Number 2

Bergen Community College

March 2019

*Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. **

Collaboration

Collaboration is at the heart of success in the ELRC. Working together builds relationships and trust and helps all who are involved accomplish more than any can alone.

Tutors

The core of the ELRC is the tutors: four professionals, three of whom are adjuncts, and the other who has studied teaching English as a second language; and ten peers, each with a GPA of 3.0 or generally closer to 4.0 and very good writing skills. Four of these were ESL students themselves. Tutors who are native speakers have to learn English grammar to be able to explain it, so tutor training, practice, and collaboration are essential for successful tutoring sessions.



Intercultural Conversation Partners

The ELRC also hosts Intercultural Conversation Partners in collaboration with the ESL/ALP speech professor, Heidi Lieb, and the Intercultural Communication professor, Gina Costa. Students from Professor Costa's Intercultural Communications course earn Service Learning Credits by volunteering an hour per week for two 30-minute sessions of conversation with students who are learning English.



Student Receptionists

The two student receptionists are also essential personnel in the ELRC. They make appointments in person and on the phone, guide students to sign up for other activities, and assist those who need technical assistance with online course work or registration.

Cerullo Learning Assistance Center

Most important to ELRC success is support from the Cerullo Learning Assistance Center manager, Khairia Fazal, who enables and encourages collaboration in all of the areas of the Cerullo Learning Assistance Center (tutoring). The ELRC benefits through processing the hiring of professional tutors, setting procedures, tutor training with the option of College Reading and Learning Association certification for tutors, and the awards ceremony at the end of the semester.

World Language Partners

Another initiative that has had some success is World Language Partners. Begun on a limited basis by Professor Lieb, and the Spanish professor Cesarina Vinas, and moved to the ELRC last semester, it gives ALP students the opportunity to volunteer to share their knowledge of their native language with students who are studying or are interested in other languages, including Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, French, and Arabic.

Faculty Liaison

Another vital person is the ESL/ALP faculty liaison. Professor Leah Carmona. Frequent discussions with the supervisor include ALP initiatives, general trends in ESL pedagogy, brainstorming options and concerns, and planning activities in the Center. As faculty liaison, Professor Carmona leads and assists with tutor training. She also conducts two weekly workshops for students.

Lending Library

The lending library is an important resources in the ELRC. The Center is digitally connected to the BCC library, so ELRC books are borrowed and tracked through their database. In addition, we are working in collaboration with Professor Joan Liu-Devizio, the ALP/ESL subject librarian, who has set up BCC library web pages with recommended books for students who have advanced beyond the simplified Penguin readers. The librarian, the ESL Supervisor, and Professor Carmona are collaborating so that these books are organized by topic and Lexile level, corresponding to the ESL/ALP course levels. See: <http://bergen.libguides.com/ALP>

Favorite Website: Thesaurus.com

A site tutors often recommend to students is Thesaurus.com. It provides students alternate vocabulary to enhance their writing. It is well-organized, putting the most relevant words first and not including obscure vocabulary which may be confusing for ESL students. Students can choose any word they are familiar with to replace repetitious vocabulary. The site also lists antonyms and related words depending on the topic.

College Departments

Thank You

In addition, we have to thank other college departments as well for assisting and thus advancing the mission of the ELRC to help students succeed in learning English.

Scheduling – Joe Irvin, Events Planning, for reserving additional rooms for ELRC activities

IT – to meet our computer needs – login, printing, and recording on the ELRC computers

Buildings & Grounds – heating, cooling, and cleaning

Career Center – assistance with hiring peer tutors and student receptionists

Financial Aid – Bonnie Rodriguez, Financial Aid Specialist, helping with work-study awards for student receptionists and qualifying tutors

Funding College Workshops – Randi Greene, STEM Financial Literacy Specialist

ELRC Schedule

Spring 2019

Monday through Thursday

9:30 - 6:30

Friday 9:30 - 3:00



Small Group Conversation Session

Group Tutoring Sessions

Conversation
Wednesday 12:30 with Afua

Writing Q & A and Essay Prep
Thursdays at 1:30 with Harika

Students in grammar, speech, or reading can also sign up together for small group appointments

World Language Partners

30 minute sessions with volunteers from the American Language Program Practice and Explore with native speakers of that language
Monday through Friday
Between 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM

Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish

Bergen Community College
English Language Resource Center
C-212

Telephone: 201-612-5292
Supervisor: Marilyn Pongracz
Assistant Supervisor: Dale Egan
Faculty Liaison: Prof. Leah Carmona
Managing Director of Learning Assistance Services : Khairia Fazal

Intercultural Conversation Partners

30 minute sessions with volunteers from the Intercultural Communication course
Students can sign up in C-212

Workshops

with

Professor Carmona

Reading & Vocabulary

Tuesdays at 12:30 PM

Grammar Q & A

Thursdays at 12:30 PM

*https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/mattie_stepanek_319300