

Northwest College Reading & Learning Association

Renewed Vision:



BOLD STEPS FORWARD

2025 Annual Conference

May 3, 2025

Pacific Northwest College of Art

Portland, Oregon



Meet our Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rebecca Tedesco



Dr. Rebecca Tedesco's superpower is that she can make anyone believe in themselves.

Rebecca has been a writing tutor and learning coach for more than 15 years. She is a College Reading & Learning Association Level 3 Master Tutor and International College Learning Center Association Level 4 Lifetime Certified Learning Center Professional. She completed an EdD in teaching and learning in higher education from Gwynedd Mercy University. Her dissertation title was How Art History Students' Learning Is Shaped by Interactions with Their Embedded Tutor.

Rebecca is co-founder and director of the College of Professional Studies & Fine Arts (PSFA) Academic Resource Center (known as the PARC) at San Diego State University,

where she also leads appointments with students as a learning coach. In addition to directing the PARC, Rebecca teaches upper-division writing courses for PSFA majors.

She was tutor coordinator in Peer Connections at San José State University from 2017-2019, where she received a 2018 CRLA Professional Development Award to continue developing the university's Tutor Supervisor Council.

Her passion, second only to her love of tutoring and academic support, is experiential learning. She completed a certificate in experiential education from Yeshiva University. When she is not working, she is usually hanging out with her wife and their little menagerie of pets, at the beach, or watching baseball.

Saturday Keynote: Charged with Purpose: Using Our Why to Electrify Tutoring in Low-Voltage Times

When the world feels dim and the work feels heavy, how do we stay plugged in? This interactive keynote will remind us how our sense of purpose—the reason we do this work—can be a powerful source of energy. We'll reconnect with our “why” to reignite joy, creativity, and connection in tutoring for all subjects, including the arts. Expect stories, practical takeaways, and maybe a spark or two of motivation.



Conference Schedule

Saturday, May 3, 2025

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Registration, Breakfast, Welcome & Introductions (Mediatheque)
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Address by Dr. Rebecca Tedesco (Mediatheque)
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Breakout Session 1
11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.	Member Meeting (Mediatheque) Tutor Gathering (Hammer Board Room)
12:30 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.	Lunch & Interest Tables (Mediatheque)
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 2
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Panel Discussion with Q&A (Mediatheque)
4:20 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Afternoon Break & Networking
4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks

Conference Strands

Teaching, Learning, & Study Strategies

To offer opportunities for networking, professional growth, and sharing of materials, theory, research, and practice related to college-level learning and study strategies, including research and practical strategies related to critical thinking and instruction, cognitive processes, adult literacy, problem solving, cognitive models describing how adults learn and remember, and social and affective approaches.

Learning Assistance Centers and Peer Assistance Programs

To share effective programming, goals and objectives, best practices, supervision, and evaluation among administrators and practitioners in learning assistance centers and peer assistant programs, but also including other models such as supplemental instruction and team learning.

Tools & Assessment

To demonstrate reliable and practical assessment approaches that provide feedback and data on the performance of learning assistance on the programmatic or individual assistance session levels in order to improve training, tutor practices, program design, and institutional support.

Morning Breakout Sessions & Lunch Interest Tables

Morning Session: 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.			
<i>Learning Assistance Centers and Peer Assistance Programs</i> Holistic Approach to Tutoring Support (HATS): A year-long program to expand food, childcare, and tutoring collaboration Mediatheque	<i>Learning Assistance Centers and Peer Assistance Programs</i> Refining an Embedded Tutoring Program Room 310	<i>Teaching, Learning, & Study Strategies</i> To Yap or Not to Yap: Looking to Active Listening & UDL Principles for Effective Tutoring Sessions. Hammer Board Room	
Lunch & Interest Tables: 12:30 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. in the Mediatheque			
<i>Informal Discussion & Sharing</i> Tutor Table (Julia)	<i>Informal Discussion & Sharing</i> Professional Mentoring (Rebecca)	<i>Informal Discussion & Sharing</i> CRLA Information (Jennifer)	<i>Informal Discussion & Sharing</i> Disability Accommodations (Fallon)

Afternoon Breakout Sessions & Closing Remarks

Afternoon Session: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	
<i>Learning Assistance Centers and Peer Assistance Programs</i> Building Community in Tutoring Programs through Student-Centered Approaches Mediatheque	<i>Teaching, Learning, and Study Strategies</i> Meeting Students Where They're At – Multiple Delivery Methods of Study Strategies to Students Room 310
Closing Remarks: 4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. in Mediatheque	

Breakout Session 1

10:15 p.m. - 11:15 p.m.

Holistic Approach to Tutoring Support (HATS): A year-long program to expand food, childcare, and tutoring collaboration

Location: Mediatheque

Strand: Learning Assistance Centers and Peer Assistance Programs

Presenters: Jenn Kepka

Lane Community College

In 2024-2025, Lane Community College embarked on a one-year project to provide ready-to-eat meals, hygiene kits, connections with childcare, and some food preparation equipment across four of our on-campus learning centers. Our efforts were retention-focused, and early results show both enthusiastic student support and an increase in student presence in our on-campus spaces. Learn with us the lessons and pitfalls of merging tutoring services and retention-focused, just-in-time additional support for students.

Refining an Embedded Tutoring Program

Location: Room 310

Strand: Learning Assistance Centers and Peer Assistance Programs

Presenters: Jen Silkey, Gary Brittsan, Catey Anderson

Chemeketa Community College

We have been engaging in multiple iterations of embedded tutoring at Chemeketa since 2016. We have had tutors in many subjects, including writing, math, sciences, art and music. Along the way, we have learned what works for us, what doesn't, and what we hope to do in the future. Join us to hear from program managers and an embedded tutor about what embedded tutoring is, how we are communicating with faculty, and how we are impacting students.

To Yap or Not to Yap: Looking to Active Listening & UDL Principles for Effective Tutoring Sessions.

Location: Hammer Board Room

Strand: Teaching, Learning, and Study Strategies

Presenters: Julia Mitchell

Lower Columbia College

Strong communication skills are central to the success of learning support services and individual support staff. Unfortunately, communication isn't always easy and we are often ineffective at communicating successfully with our students. In this session, we will dive deeper into the practice of listening—one of the most overlooked skills in effective communication—and explore how we can better support neurodiverse students by looking at a Universal Design for Learning framework in the context of a tutoring session. This interactive session may be particularly relevant to those that work directly with students in a collaborative or 1-on-1 setting.

Breakout Session 2

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Building Community in Tutoring Programs through Student-Centered Approaches

Location: Mediatheque

Strand: Learning Assistance Centers and Peer Assistance Programs

Presenters: Drew Gonrowski

Reed College

Tutoring programs have the potential to be positive communities of learning for both tutees and tutors. One way to facilitate this development of community is by taking a student-centered approach to the organization of the tutor program. This presentation will share ways tutoring programs can use student-centered approaches to develop tutor trainings, promotion, tutoring services, assessment, and space organization, and how doing so builds community among tutors and tutees. We will also discuss possible challenges and obstacles to making changes in tutoring programs and spend time brainstorming with one another ways to develop student-centered approaches in participants' tutoring programs. This presentation may especially be beneficial to those who run tutoring programs or work with student workers.

Meeting Students Where They're At – Multiple Delivery Methods of Study Strategies to Students

Location: Room 310

Strand: *Teaching, Learning, and Study Strategies*

Presenters: Jen Silkey, Riley Hoyt, Yosi Mesbah

Chemeketa Community College

We offer in-class study strategy presentations - learn about the published research results. We also offer individual study strategy consultations conducted by peer tutors - see how you could add this to the offerings at your institution. Come discuss with program managers and a peer tutor about what we've tried so far and brainstorm what we can all try in the future!