

### Initial Set-Up

- Set up by Barbara Ladner and Jessica Pietruszynski in 2009
- Five tables, 15 chairs, 3 laptops, one PC with registering software\*
- Hours est. as M-R, some evening hours up to 7 p.m.
- AmeriCorps students and upper level English majors comprise tutoring staff
- Center designated to serve all students, but visits are university mandated as supplemental assistance for English 101 Enhanced students as part of course requirement
- Part time director appointment, Cat Pleska, Fall 2010 (required presence in Center 6 hours/week [equivalent to 2 class release times]; Pleska does outreach through class visitations and other adm. duties and to direct cont. education workshops w/tutors)

### Staffing and Funding

- Initial tutor hours ~60 hours a week, over 4 days (M-R)
- Part of the early tutor hours was largely AmeriCorps
- Tutor hours funded by Title III 22-28 hours a week
- The Center has never had its own budget—has had to depend on English Department for paper and toner cartridges and on Title III monies distributed through SSS
- Dir. Pleska's initial initiative was to acquire an equipment/supply budget—never established despite continual requests

### Recent History

- 2012 Title III employee assigned to Center (20 hours/week), AmeriCorps hrs. reduced
- 2012-Summer 2013 tutor hours ~ 42
- Center stabilized and most successful with at least one tutor in Center consistently (not as assistant but as continuity)
- Title III 20 hr. emp. position cut June 2013
- Current tutor hours, including AmeriCorps: ~37\*\*
- Software to register/report failed 2013—sign-in sheets only method
- Acquired 2 more laptops 2012

### Statistics

- On average, Center serves between **350-500 visits per semester(750-1000/AY)**
- Number of **individuals per semester ~75-100**
- **Qualitative data indicate students agree to benefits provided by tutoring and establish improved accomplishments in writing and an increase in grades\*\*\***

## Current Status

- Reduced tutor hours leads to closures and destabilizes Center for student use
- Still no budget\*\*\*\* for any supplies
- Printer in Center is on its last legs—a printer is essential for students and tutors to work with papers for review; no other printer is in the vicinity; with the new initiative to save on paper and toner, establishing support for the Center's equipment is obligatory\*\*\*\*\*
- Student visits reduced by 15% due to students no longer in Ferrell Hall for classes
- Complaints from faculty due to Center closures

## Recommendations

- Establish Center as a university responsibility and funded with a budget
- Yearly budget should cover equipment expenses and additional purchasing of software for registering/reports/tutorials
- Budget for full time director
- Funding for director's professional development: conferences through IWCA
- Funding for yearly subscription to IWCA professional journal and newsletters
- Tutor hours should expand to minimally 50-60 hours/week (current status)
- Funding for tutor professional development (20 hours/semester/per tutor)

**WVSU: establish equipment and staff budget to fund the WVSU Writing Center to ensure its continuing support for retention and support of its student body that also allows for the Center's continuing growth.**

\*software designed by Bob Houston allowed for log in, reports for # of individuals, #hours, individual classes, demographics of students/allowed for updated database from Banner for new students—that software left with Mr. Houston's departure

\*\*Some time slots are so thinly covered that due to illness and other incidents Center is closed at odd times, frustrating visiting students and est. an inconsistency that is detrimental to the Center and Student body

\*\*\*Qualitative data collected through evaluations and observation by director and tutors

\*\*\*\*English Department can no longer provide any assistance (and avers that it should not as the Center should be a university responsibility) due to their severely reduced budget

\*\*\*\*\*There is a new printer in the Center, thanks to Student Support Services, Kellie Toledo; however, no one will grant permission for its support (confusion over who can grant that)