Committee on Community Colleges

Charge: The Committee on Community Colleges will consider a range of issues that affect modern language teachers in two-year colleges, e.g., conditions of employment, staffing, curriculum, articulation with secondary schools and four-year institutions, the preparation and recruitment of faculty, and the encouragement of scholarship about teaching in the community college.

The committee should develop convention sessions and propose publications and other projects that will serve the needs of students and current and future teachers at two-year colleges.

[revised Feb. 2005]

Roster, 2018-2019

Robyn L. Schiffman, chair
Illinois Valley Community College
Oglesby, IL

Carol Reitan
City College of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Alberta Gatti
The Graduate Center
New York, NY

Jack Morales
Community College of Allegheny County
Pittsburgh, PA

Susan J. Miller
Santa Fe College
Gainesville, FL

Carmen Beaudry
Pima Community College/Cochise College
Tuscon, AZ/Sierra Vista, AZ

James Hart
County College of Morris
Randolph, NJ 07869

MLA Staff Liaisons: Paula Krebs and Steven Olsen
The Committee on Community Colleges met several times during the academic year 2018-2019, 3 times over conference calls and once in person at Chicago’s MLA Convention. 2018 meetings focused on prepping for our two panels at the Chicago Convention, “Putting Descartes before the Class: How Challenging Texts and Media Can Facilitate Students’ Transition from Developmental to College-Level Courses” and “Translanguaging: Shuttling between Linguistic Spaces. Leveraging students’ full language repertoire in L2, heritage, and English classrooms.” Panels were well received and potential committee members were recruited from the audience. Our 2019 meetings focused on creating proposals for the Seattle and Toronto annual conventions. As of July 1, 2019, the 3 sessions proposed for Seattle are:


b. Roundtable: The Teacher/Scholar at the 2-year College. Susan Miller will chair.

c. Roundtable: How to Get a Community College Job. 3-way sponsorship with ADE & ADFL.

In addition to brainstorming sessions, we speak and share about hot topics on our college campuses, such as the impact of state legislation, contingent employment, student preparedness, and mental health. We circulate timely articles and discuss them. Two articles discussed from our January meeting were the following:

a. “Why We Need to Rethink Remediation,” by Angela Boatman and Thomas J. Kane  
https://www.chronicle.com/article/Why-We-Need-to- Rethink/245320?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en&elqTrackId=e20a00aba39b4afa8b25b218f8f9d000&elq=254b83922b0443eab45ba7fc7fc362cd&elqaid=21711&elqat=1&elq CampaignId=10521

b. “Teaching the Students We Have, Not the Students We Wish We Had,” by Sara Goldrick-Rab and Jesse Stommel  https://www.chronicle.com/article/Teaching-the-Students-We- Have/245290?cid=wcontentgrid

In order to extend its reach to the Northwestern part of the US, the chair obtained a list of all MLA community college members in Washington and Oregon and emailed them personally about the 2020 convention. Responses were warm and it is hoped engagement from that segment will increase due to this outreach. The Committee hopes to elevate its visibility at each subsequent convention by proposing relevant sessions with a wide range of contributors.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Robyn L Schiffman
Chair, Committee on Community Colleges, 2018-2019