

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL R.E.A.S.O.N. FORUM

August 16, 2011 | New Student Center 370

PROGRAM

## 1:40-2:00 **Written Communication as Critical Thinking**

Remica Bingham-Risher (Examination of Writing Competency), Mona Bryant-Shanklin (School of Education), Michael Cotter (English and Foreign Languages), Joseph D'Silva (Biology), Danielle Flipping (Examination of Writing Competency), Leroy Hamilton (FYE/ACCESS), Lynne Harrison (LBB Library), Mamie Johnson (English and Foreign Languages), Denise Langley (Interdisciplinary Studies), Leon Rouson (School of Education), and Michael Smith (English and Foreign Languages)

Using data from the university initiative *The Examination of Writing Competency (EWC)* as a foundation, the Written Communication Col endeavors to engage in scholarly examination of written communication as a core college success skill while streamlining and enhancing the writing competency teaching and learning processes. We continue to explore how the University scholarly community can use the substantial EWC data collected to help improve student written communication and critical thinking skills through evidence-based classroom interventions in the (general education) core courses across the disciplines as well as improved, more rigorous and consistent advising and grading procedures. We're currently focused on how implementing innovative, documented changes in teaching and, especially, advising may help improve students' written communication and critical thinking skills and, subsequently, EWC performance and QEP success.

## 2:05-2:25 **Diversity in the Classroom Community of Inquiry**

Olusoji Akomolafe (Political Science), William Hart (Mass Communications and Journalism), Isabel Killough (English and Foreign Languages), and Stephanie Walker (English and Foreign Languages)

Racial or gender discrimination comes to mind when we normally think of discrimination. However, national origin discrimination, and in particular accent discrimination, gets the least attention. This topic of debate is usually not properly addressed in the academic setting. This presentation will discuss the issues related to accent diversity, the common misconceptions of listeners, and will attempt to stimulate a more robust conversation on the plight of foreign-accented speakers.



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