

**Standing Group:** Writing with Current, Former, and Future Members of the Military

**Local Group Supported:** Vetwork PDX. The Vetwork PDX ethos is simple. We believe in an organic approach to building a strong community of veterans in Portland. To accomplish this, we organize events every month where veterans can come together to get to know each other. Whether you are looking to transition to a new career, searching for a support network, or are just wanting to have a conversation with friends you are welcome at a Vetwork PDX event. We don't ask for anything from our attendees as we don't want our community to feel like a chore, we just want to build meaningful and lasting relationships in an enjoyable setting.

**Local Outreach Activity:** A peer mentoring workshop for Portland area military veterans

**Specifics:**

**When:** Saturday March 18, 2017, 10am-12pm

**Where:** TBD by Vetwork PDX Liaison

**What:** A peer mentoring workshop facilitated by four members of the Standing Group who are writing instructors.

**Detailed Overview of workshop:**

- Brief introductions; workshop structure and purpose
- Presentation: Benefits of peer mentoring
- Discussion: Attendees' discussions of peer mentoring experiences
- Presentation: Strategies for growing peer mentoring networks
- Action: Putting the strategies to work
- Wrap-up: Take-aways from the workshop and final thoughts

**Activity Rationale:** The Standing Group mission includes a dedication to helping composition faculty “respond to the strengths and needs of those connected to the military,” and the group believes this work extends to community outreach as well. The Standing Group’s prior outreach workshop with Lone Star Veterans Association in Houston proved successful, thus encouraging our decision to reach out to Vetwork PDX. After a conversation with Vetwork PDX founders to learn more about their group needs and activities, Dr. Katt Blackwell-Starnes organized this effort to assist Vetwork PDX in their mission to foster community among Portland area veterans. In addition to assisting Vetwork PDX in their mission, members of the Standing Group also view such outreach as a way to expand our collaborative efforts to bring together veterans and composition faculty in high impact, community-oriented service of both an academic and a non-academic nature. This outreach project is an excellent opportunity for the Standing Group to answer 2017 Program Chair Carolyn Calhoun-Dillahunt’s call for members to cultivate “member capacity for action” in a way beneficial to both CCCC and Vetwork PDX.

**Recruitment:** Participants will be recruited via announcements on the Vetwork PDX website, MeetUp.com, LinkedIn, and the group's email distribution list.

**Anticipated Expenses:**

Refreshments for workshop (coffee, water, light snacks) --\$250

Handouts for presentation \$50

**Total Cost:** \$300 (with any remaining funds donated to Vetwork PDX as a charitable donation)

**Contact Information for Activity Leaders:**

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