CSU Writes is housed in the Graduate School (GS) and receives operating funds from the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). CSU Writes supports CSU’s research and scholarly writers who write for publication, submission, and/or degree completion.

PROGRAM

We value diversity and serve all graduates student, postdoctorate, faculty, and research writers through equity-based programming across all CSU’s colleges and programs. We support CSU’s writers “where they are” (lived experiences and professional growth) as they learn skills, contribute to their disciplinary communities, develop expertise, and build their careers through their writing. We develop program support in response to the needs of CSU research writers. Many of our methods come from research on writing containment, writing in social spaces, writing productivity, and agile systems. We offered 22 retreats, 33 workshops, dozens of special topic presentations, and hundreds of drop-in writing sessions (show up & write.) in 2019-20.

We increased attendance by 21% in attendance from 2018-19. Since the program’s founding in 2015, this is the fifth year of noteworthy growth.

Our participants rated the 2019-20 retreats and workshops highly: Event Value 4.7 and Would Recommend This Event 4.8 (1 strongly disagree - 5 strongly agree).

We transitioned to remote delivery for all offerings mid-March 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

OFFERINGS

RETREATS
- Thesis/Dissertation
- Grant Writing
- Faculty Writers
- Specialty: NREL, USGS

WORKSHOPS: FAC, GRAD, & DOC

BUILD MOMENTUM SERIES TOPICS
- Scheduling & Prioritizing Writing
- Write for Speed
- Agile Methods
- Sustainable Writing Habits
- Dealing with Procrastination
- Productivity & Wellbeing

HOW TO EDIT SERIES
- Macro Strategies (Document-Level Strategies)
- Micro Strategies (Sentence-Level Strategies)

KEY TOPICS
- ETD: Electronic Thesis/Dissertation, Copyright, ProQuest
- Avoid Plagiarism
- Literature Review
- Working with Grad Writers
- Collaborative Writing: Mentoring Through Writing

DROP-IN WRITING show up & write.
- Weekday writing sessions, 8am - 5pm
- FROC: Faculty & Researchers of Color Sessions
- RiSE virtual writing sessions

SPECIAL TOPICS/EVENTS
- CHHS (Const. Mgt. & SOE) 4-part Series: Nuts & Bolts of Writing in Grad School
- CVMBS Summer Scholars Program
- Craft of Science Writing
- GAUSSI workshop on “Abstracts”
- Special Request Department or Class Talks

COVID-19 transitioned all programs to remote delivery and added “Shelter in Place” support
- Tuesday Talks for FAC, DOC, GRAD
- Recorded workshops for asynchronous viewing
- Keep Writing Web support

BLACK RAMS MATTER
“Write in Solidary” with Web resources to inform about race, racism, and career-building in academe
PEOPLE

PARTICIPANTS
2357 attendances (21% increase from 2018-19)
- Attendees from all 8 colleges, most SAUs, and other programs.
- Highest participation from COE, CHHS, CAS, CLA, and CNS.

DIRECTOR
Dr. Kristina Quynn, CSU Writes’ founding director, brings expertise in narrative theory and sustainable writing practice to program development and projects.

PAID INTERNS
4 grad student interns + 1 postdoc facilitator
- Dr. Izabela Ragan (Biomedical Sciences) Writing Groups Facilitator
- Jeremy Worrell (Business) Fall WARP Support
- Seré Williams (Cellular and Molecular Biology) Spring WARP Support
- Swetha Varadarajan (Computer Science) Database Support
- Michelle LaCrosse (English) Event Support
- Dominique Montano (Biology) Records Support

VOLUNTEER PROCTORS 15 faculty, postdocs, researchers, and graduate students hosted show up & write.
- Ashlie Johnson (Psychology)
- Carly DeSanto (Anthropology)
- Dr. Clint Leach (Biology)
- Colleen Brents (Enviro. Health)
- Deniz Besiktepe (Const. Mgt)
- Dr. Josh Hewitt (Statistics)
- Dr. John Pippen (Music)
- Dr. Julie Heinrichs (NREL)
- Lilly Halboth (English)
- Dr. Lindsey Schneider (Ethnic Studies)
- Liz McConnell (Civ. Env. Engineering)
- Marissa Metz (Biomedical Sci.)
- Susan Clotfelter (Journalism & Media)
- Teri Gadd (Horticulture)
- Yan Shan (Sociology)

GS Leadership and Staff
Leadership: Dean Mary Stromberger and Assoc. Dean Colleen Webb
Fiscal support: Dustin Grantham and Marian Willis;
Communication support: Lynna Dicamillo and Theresa Barosh
Tech support: Julie Paolucci and Cathy Lee
Admin. support: Allison DeWaele
ETD info session: Jennifer Wang and Alina Lugo

Project Collaborators
- OVPR-Research Acceleration Office
- Libraries: Dawn Paschal, Helen Baer
- Dr. Carol Wilusz (CMB)
- Dr. Rodolfo Valdes-Vasques (Const. Mgt)
- Dr. Jeff Wilusz (MIP)
- Dr. Stu Tobe (Biomedical Sci.)
- Dr. Julie Heinrichs (NREL)
- Dr. Meara Faw (Comm. & Media Studies)
- Stephanie G’Schwind (English, Center for Lit. Publishing)

BUDGET-FY20
Total budget of $116,000 included director’s salary and operating funds of 24,000 from OVPR
Fewer costs with on-line retreats led to $2700 remaining, with a request to roll remaining monies to FY21

GRATITUDE & OPPORTUNITIES
THANK YOU. We are grateful to work with amazing research writers, leaders, and colleagues at CSU. Special gratitude to our dedicated interns and proctors who sustain our writing community, to Dean Stromberger for her leadership and encouragement, to the OVPR for the funding and collaborative support, and to Bala Vagvala (CSUW 2020-21 intern) who helped with compiling data for this report.

FUTURE. In 2021, we look forward to building targeted research writing programming through strategic campus partnerships: specifically for publishing, editing, NIH, NSF grant writers, colleges, departments, and programs.

write. early. often. better. together.