

CWPA Timeline 2021-2025

CWPA has been interrogating and interrupting white supremacy within the organization. This process was precipitated by a public boycott of the organization, which served as a necessary and difficult wakeup call, both regarding events in 2021 as well as events, policies, and practices throughout the organization's history. The timeline below presents an overview of events between 2021 and the present. The subsequent pages provide additional information, including links to relevant documents. This timeline was last updated in May 2025 by Kelly Blewett in consultation with members of the current CWPA Executive Board. It is true and accurate to the best of her knowledge.

April-June 2021

- Asao Inoue [called for the boycott](#) on his blog and reported that more than 700 people signed the online petition. The original Outcomes Statement Task Force parted ways from CWPA and retracted their work. They reformed as the [Institute for Race, Rhetoric, and Literacy](#).
- The Executive Board [publicly apologized](#) to the original Outcomes Statement Revision Task Force.
- All organizational business was paused indefinitely.
- WPA-GO published a [boycott response statement](#) and separated from CWPA.
- *WPA: Writing Program Administration* published a [special issue](#) on Black Lives Matter and Anti-Racist Projects in Writing Program Administration, which they made open access.
- *WPA* journal editors resigned.
- Elections were held for 3 open EB positions and the vice president position. Al Harahap, Erin Lehman, and Melvin Beavers were elected to the EB and Lilian Mina was elected to the Vice President role, starting in July 2022.
- The summer WPA Workshop was held online, led by Mark McBeth, Darci Thoun, and Melvin Beavers.

July 2021- June 2022

- The consulting firm [One Eight CREATE](#) was hired to complete a cultural audit, including a document review, surveys, listening sessions, and interviews.
- Limited committee work.
- In January, a new editorial team started at *WPA* journal: Tracy Ann Morse, Patti Poblete, and Wendy Sharer. They created the "Everything is Praxis" section and revised their [reviewer guidelines](#) based on antiracist editorial practices.
- The WPA Workshop was held virtually, led by Darci Thoun, Melvin Beavers, and Erin Lehman. New sections on social justice were added.
- Reno was postponed by a year; an online conference was planned instead. The first draft CFP for the Colloquium was criticized on individuals' social media accounts for appropriating the work of Black scholars from the field of Technical and Professional Writing. The committee [apologized and revised](#) the CFP.

July 2022- June 2023

- The OEC document review was completed in the fall of 2022 and discussed by the EB at the spring meeting. It included a review of the organizational by-laws, as well as documents from the Consultant-Evaluator service and *WPA* journal.
- The One Eight CREATE survey for members went out in the fall of 2022; Over 100 members participated.
- The Colloquium featured a keynote from Chilean scholar Natalia Ávila Reyes, several sessions, and celebrated the lifetime service of Duane Roen and Kathleen Yancey.
- Elections were held for 3 open EB positions. Daryl Lynn Dance, Michelle Bachelor Robinson, and Christal Seahorn were elected to the EB.
- CWPA hosted a table at CCCC where organizational information was passed out.
- The Consultant-Evaluator Service, led by Michael Pemberton and Shirley Rose, revised their practices and procedures, including significant changes to the self-study form so that it explicitly addressed DEI in all sections.
- OEC offered listening sessions in the spring for members and non-members. They were poorly attended. OEC distributed a non-member survey.

- Susan Thomas [summarized the changes](#) that had occurred during her time as president. Lilian Mina became president.
- In June, a revision of CWPA Bylaws was approved by the EB. It limited the terms of service in leadership positions from 6 years to 3 years to be more inclusive; the requirement that only EB members could run for VP was eliminated.
- WPA journal appointed 3 new editorial board members (Wonderful Faison, Erin Lehman, and Amy Vidali) with the goal of increasing BIPOC scholar participation and diversity of institutional types and locations represented.

July 2023- June 2024

- CWPA in-person conference in Reno, Nevada with 170 registrants. The theme was “Social Justice WPA-ing.”
- At Reno, One Eight CREATE presented initial cultural audit findings, offered DEI training for the EB, and conducted listening sessions and interviews.
- A virtual WPA Workshop was led by Erin Lehman and Joanne Giordano.
- Lilian Mina distributed a [cultural report card](#) to members.
- 8 Committees opened; Award committees caught up to account for missing year. DEI goals were incorporated into each committee charge.
- Virtual professional development events were held throughout the year. Many had a DEI focus.
- Recruitment of C/E Members with the goal of increasing BIPOC scholar representation and diversity of institutional types and locations; 7 new consultant/evaluators added in spring: Sheila Carter-Tod, Karen Keaton-Jackson, Jeffrey Klausman, Paul Kei Matsuda, Mya Poe, Kelly Ritter, Trixie Smith.
- OEC finalized the Cultural Assessment Report in December 2023 and presented it to the EB.
- A new Task Force to revise the Outcomes Statement was established, chaired by Al Harahap, Antonio Byrd, and Michelle Bachelor Robinson. The Task Force members and charges were [published on the website](#).
- Outreach to WPA-GO: Kelly Blewett and Al Harahap met regularly with WPA-GO leadership to explore options for a Memorandum of Understanding.
- In January 2024, Amanda Presswood took over as secretary; Christal Seahorn took over as treasurer.
- Regional Day-Long Events in Summer took place in Florida, Wisconsin, and Illinois, among other locations.
- Elections: 4 EB members were elected from a slate of 9 candidates: Darci Thoun, Jacob Babb, and Talisha Haltiwanger Morrison started 3-year terms; Mary Lourdes Silva will finish the 2 years that remained in Christal Seahorn’s term. Erin Lehman was elected vice president and Kelly Blewett was elected president.
- Lilian Mina sent a [final update](#) of her time as president.
- In-person WPA Workshop in Florida was led by Joanne Giordano and David Green; linguistic diversity and social justice were key topics.
 - A [Bedford/St. Martins scholarship](#) created an opportunity for a WPA of color to attend the Workshop for free.

July 2024- July 2025

- The final OEC [2023 Cultural Assessment Report](#) was published on the CWPA website and distributed to the field via the Writing Studies Listserv.
- Monthly virtual workshops were planned and held, and several are focused on DEI topics. Events can be [found here](#).
- Bi-monthly conversations of the OEC Report, which were led by EB Members, started in August and ran through May 2025. These events were open to the public.
- 10 committees are ran this year.
- WPA-GO and CWPA [announced](#) the reestablished connection between the two organizations.
- In December, by vote of the Executive Board, the CWPA bylaws were revised to allow the WPA GO representative to have a voting role on the Executive Board.
- In April 2025, the CWPA Executive Board hosted a table at CCCC, as well as a roundtable session to offer updates to the field. 26 people attended the session.

- Outcomes Task Force is continuing to work, with CWPA Executive Board support, including a daylong retreat in April 2025.
- In May, David Green was elected to Vice President position and Taylor Dickson affirmed as the new WPA-GO representative.
- WPA Summer Workshop took place June 23-25 in person at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. David Green and Michelle Bachelor Robinson were co-facilitators and they titled the workshop “Civility in the Wake of Social and Administrative Change.” Fifteen WPAs participated.
- Online conference, “Chairs, Coordinators, Directors, Leads, WPAs: The Shifting Nature of WPA Work” to take place July 10-11. As of July 9, more than 150 have registered for the conference.
- July 10, 2025: the CWPA Executive Board Whitepaper, “Renewing Our Vows,” published on the CWPA website under the “Resources” tab.