



TUTOR CONNECTIONS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Train the Trainer Extravaganza

Save the Date
14th Annual GaTA Conference
October 22, 2016
*Proposal Submissions & Registration
Opening Soon*

TRAIN THE TRAINER CONFERENCE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

After months of preparation and planning, the GaTA Executive Board held its first event under the new leadership. On Friday, October 16th tutoring administrators from across Georgia gathered at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) for our first Train the Trainer event. Check-in began at 10:00 am and continued with coffee and snacks during a socialization hour among participants. The event brought administrators from institutions like UGA and Middle GA State College, to name a few.

Following the check-in and mingling period, GaTA held its business meeting during which such items as the future conference, budget, and social media were all discussed. The meeting was open to all, as president Mary Hamilton went over the history of GaTA and the reorganization of the association. GaTA members in attendance at the meeting were excited about what Ms. Hamilton is referring to as the "GaTA Renaissance". Once the business meeting concluded, participants could attend some informational sessions for the remainder of the day's events. Jeannie Ruggerio presented on the importance of learning centers in higher education. Lunch provided by a local bread and coffee shop followed, and sessions continued after that.

Jennifer Hicks and Nea Martin presented from Georgia Highlands College about making your school see that tutoring centers matter. The final session of the day was led by ABAC employee Rebecca Cofer on the process to get levels II and III certification for your campus. This year's Train the Trainer event offered attendees not only valuable information to bring back to their institutions but also the chance to meet other tutor administrators in the Georgia. The GaTA Executive Board hopes to make this event a new GaTA tradition, along with our conference in the fall.

A **BIG** Thank You from GaTA

A big THANK YOU to all of those that were able to make it to our GaTA Train-the-Trainer event last week. What a great day!! Thank you to all our presenters, and to everyone there for the contributions. I think we could have easily just written a topic, or even a word, on the board, said go, and the discussions would have started. I am glad we are all a part of the Georgia Tutoring Association and that we have this organization and opportunities like this to share and discuss all things tutoring.



Click above to join the Linked-in GaTa group.

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TRAIN THE TRAINER: AN ATTENDEE'S PERSPECTIVE

I recently attended the Georgia Tutoring Association's (GaTA) Train the Trainer event held on October 16, 2015, at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC). When I received the email invitation, I was excited to see that the Association was up and running again after nearly three years of laying dormant. My director, Dr. Chere Peguesse, and I attended this event out of curiosity as to what it would consist of and to connect with our local Georgia colleagues who work in tutoring and academic support. Both of us were extremely pleased with the takeaway from the day. The current group of officers are passionate about our discipline and seem truly enthusiastic about the future of the organization. It was great to reconnect with colleagues across the state with whom I had lost touch and to make new connections. Both Dr. Peguesse and I came away with great contacts for programs we want to initiate at Valdosta State University and ideas to include in our future training programs for the tutors in our center. We both look forward to attending the 2016 GaTA Conference at Middle Georgia State University.



Terence Sullivan, Valdosta State University

TRAIN THE TRAINER: A PRESENTER'S PERSPECTIVE

I sometimes feel like I am operating my learning (tutoring) center in a vacuum. No one else on campus knows just what it takes to manage a tutoring program. No one quite understands the delicate balance between satisfying students and tutors and faculty and administration. I often question, "Am I making the right choices for our students? Are my tutors handling situations appropriately? Does administration value what we do?" I troll the Irnasst listserv, participate in webinars, and read every article I can find, but I recently discovered there is nothing comparable to talking to other tutoring managers face-to-face.

On October 16, after nine years in the field and with butterflies in my stomach, I presented "Tutoring Matters" to a group of fellow tutoring managers at GaTA's Train the Trainer event. I had carefully constructed a PowerPoint with my opinion of the seven most effective strategies to show an institution that tutoring matters. I did not know what to expect from the audience, but I was pleasantly surprised at the conversations that developed during the presentation. The group was welcoming and engaged. Now that I reflect on the day, I wonder to myself, "What did you expect? They are tutors for goodness sake!" Tutors are a special breed of educators, individuals with a passion for learning and educating that goes well beyond a typical classroom setting. We are trained to be welcoming and we promote engagement. What do you know? We don't operate in a vacuum! In fact, becoming a GaTA member offers a support system for those of us in learning assistance/tutoring here in Georgia. I am so excited about GaTA's revival and the connections we, as tutors and tutoring managers, will be able to make and sustain in the years to come, and I so look forward to the next conference in October 2016.

Jennifer Hicks

Train the Trainer 2015 Schedule

9:30 am-10:00 am	Check-in/ Meet and Greet 10:00 am-11:00 am
10:00- 11:00 am	GaTA Business Meeting
11:15am-12:00pm	The Importance of Learning Centers in Higher Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeannie Ruggerio, Middle Georgia State College
12:00 pm-12:45 pm	LUNCH- provided by Dave's Bread and Coffee
12:45 pm-1:30 pm	How to Make Your Campus See That Tutoring Centers Matter <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jennifer Hicks, Georgia Highlands College
1:45 pm-2:30 pm	Let's Get Certified: The How To of Level II and III CRLA Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rebecca Cofer, ABAC