

CWPA Timeline 2021-2024

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 October 2024 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	July 2021- June 2022	July 2022- June 2023	July 2023- June 2024	July 2024-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Public Boycott and Parting Ways with Outcomes Statement Revision Task Force •CWPA Executive Board Public Apology •WPA-GO Separates from the CWPA •Pause on Organizational Business •Elections: 3 EB Candidates and VP Candidate •WPA Journal Editors Resign •Virtual Summer WPA Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hire One Eight CREATE (OEC) for Cultural Audit •A Few Committees Resume •New WPA Journal Editors Begin •WPA Journal Adopts Antiracist Publishing Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •More Reinstating of CWPA Committees •OEC Document Review •OEC Surveys on CWPA Culture •CWPA Table at CCCC •Elections: 3 EB Candidates •Virtual WPA Workshop •Changes to C/E Service By-Laws and Procedures •Limited CWPA By-Law Revision •CWPA Conference in Reno •OEC Listening Sessions and Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •8 Committees / Award Committee Catch-Up •DEI Goals Included in All Committee Charges •Virtual Events throughout Year •OEC finalizes report in December 2023 •Establishment of New Task Force to Revise Outcomes Statement •Recruitment of Diverse C/E Consultants •Outreach to WPA-GO •Regional Day-Long Events in Summer •Elections (9 EB candidates, 1 VP candidate, 1 President Candidate) •In-person WPA Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Outreach to WPA-GO •Publication of OEC Report on Website •Monthly Virtual Events Planned, Several Focused on Inclusion, Equity, and Belonging •Bi-Monthly Conversations of OEC Report Planned, Led by EB Members •10 Committees Open •Projected Elections in Spring 2025 for VP and 3 EB members •Online Conference July 10-11 2025 •Projected WPA Workshop in Summer 2025 •New Outcomes Task Force Continues Working

CWPA Timeline 2021-2024: A Deeper Dive

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 Thoune, 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 Thoune, 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.
- 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 a 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 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 Thoune, 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- Present / Looking Forward

- 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 are planned, and several are focused DEI topics. Events can be [found here](#).
- Bi-monthly conversations of OEC Report, which will be led by EB Members, started in August. Outreach to the original Outcomes Statement Task Force and the 2021 CWPA Executive Board formally invited their participation. A report about the first meeting can be [viewed here](#).
- 9 committees are running this year.
- Projected election in spring 2025 for Vice President role.
- Online conference will take place in summer 2025 from July 10-11. Aiming to circulate the CFP in November 2024.
- Projected WPA Workshop in summer 2025. Applications are open to serve as co-facilitator for this event.

- Outreach WPA-GO: Kelly Blewett attended two meetings of the GO Leadership Council to present the benefits of reconnecting. Conversations with GO about reconnecting are continuing, with the next meeting taking place in November.
- Outcomes Task Force is continuing to work, with CWPA Executive Board support.
- In April 2025, CWPA will have a roundtable at CCCC to discuss the cultural assessment report work, as well as a table in the exhibit hall.
- In June 2025, the CWPA Executive Board will publish a whitepaper that presents the themes from each of the 2024-25 cultural assessment conversations.