

## **Pedagogue Bonus: Future Directions for TYCA (w/Cheryl Hogue Smith)**

### *Transcript*

Welcome to Pedagogue Bonus, a short episode that covers a single topic or question. I'm your host, Shane Wood.

In this bonus episode, I talk with Cheryl Hogue Smith about the Two-Year College English Association and potential future directions for two-year college research and teaching.

Cheryl Hogue Smith is a Professor of English and Writing Across the Curriculum Co-Coordinator at Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York and a Past Chair of the Two-Year College English Association. She is a Fellow of the National Writing Project (SCWriP) and has published articles in TETYC, JBW, JAAL, English Journal, JTW, California English, and Midsummer Magazine (Utah Shakespeare Festival) and chapters in What is "College-Level" Writing? (vol.2, NCTE) and the forthcoming Deep Reading, Deep Learning.

Cheryl, thanks so much for joining us.

*SW: You are the Past Chair of the Two-Year College English Association (TYCA). What do you hope to see TYCA become or be? What future directions would you like to see happen in the teaching and research of writing in two-year colleges?*

*CHS: The big answer is that I would love for TYCA to be the go-to for administrators and legislators who think that they understand our students better than we do, even though most of them have never stepped foot into a classroom. And I would love for, this is going to sound corny, but I would love for TYCA to be in the room where it happens. Right? I mean, because we're often not there. And we're doing a lot of really good work. We have done a lot of really good work. I know Carolyn talked to you about some of the white papers that we've done, especially on developmental writing. I mean, we've done the white paper on two-year college faculty workload that just came out; placement reform; developmental education reform. We have so many position statements that people can go to, to try to help their administrators and help them teach more effectively.*

Holly Hassell, another person that you've interviewed, we just converted a task force on faculty workload. They came out with nine working papers. They had so much data and they're about to come out with the white paper. I want to say it's in the next edition of TETYC, *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*, which is the flagship journal. So just extraordinary kind of heartbreaking, but extraordinary work coming out of there, especially with the labor conditions and with adjuncts, contingent faculty. So they're continuing that work.

I would love for it to grow. I know you've had conversations about national TYCA. We're now doing the TYCA conference. It's part of our bylaws. It's ingrained in the structure of the organization, which is under the umbrella of NCTE, the National Council of Teachers of English. And so I hope it gets bigger. I hope that, you know, more people find us and know about that. I think we have to do a little better with getting our regions more connected and that national conference does that. So that's something that I hope and we also need to become more

diverse. Sarah Johnson, the current chair is working on that. She just put together a standing committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Gosh, we're just doing so much work. We're about to do a national survey, Darin Jensen, Holly Hassell, and I think there's a third person, I'm sorry, whoever you are. I'm really sorry. But they're going to do a national survey to see who is teaching the two-year college people.

We're also going to do a study on the impact of the pandemic in two-year colleges. There's a taskforce on reading, they're finishing up their work right now. They are writing a white paper that will come out in a special edition of TETYC, teaching reading in open-access contexts. The call for that is coming out really quickly. Joanne Giordano and I are going to co-edit that as guest editors. There's just so many other things that we're doing. There's a committee on the threat to the liberal arts and the humanities in two-year colleges. There's a lot going on.

Two-year colleges are being more and more and more and more corporatized. I have heard presidents actually refer to students as “customers.” Not really sure what that makes me, an “independent contractor,” “vendor,” not really sure how they see us, but it is becoming more and more corporatized. It is becoming more and more administrative bloat. It is becoming more and more contingent faculty heavy. TYCA is right there trying to make sure that, you know, we don't lose sight of the students. And really that's what it boils down to is helping all teachers at two-year colleges and students in the first two years of college, right. Because we've got those first two years. And really we're just trying to say, “How can we be the best teacher so that our students can succeed.”