



## Two-Year College English Association

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### **Research and Scholarship in the Two-Year College (Revised – November 2010)**

*At two-year colleges, good teaching matters most, and scholarship is a prerequisite and co-requisite for good teaching—because teachers’ scholarship legitimizes expertise, informs classroom practice, and provides students with models for intellectual inquiry.*

As a professor at a community college, you will be evaluated primarily in terms of your effectiveness as a teacher, your commitment to student learning, and your service to the institution and the community. While research and publication are generally encouraged and supported, they do not serve as the main institutional goals and therefore may be given limited recognition and reward in terms of rank, promotion, and salary. Most institutional honors and awards are based on exemplary teaching. (“Considering Community Colleges: Advice to Graduate Students and Job Seekers.” *Profession 2003*, 167)

. . . faculty members at community colleges are expected to be proficient in the use of instructional technologies, including presentation software like PowerPoint, teaching in classrooms equipped with the latest technology (“smart” classrooms), developing supplemental Web sites for their classes, teaching online or through other distance learning media like cable TV, developing independent learning sections of foreign language courses, and so on. While new technologies are transforming how higher education delivers courses, their uses are particularly important at community colleges given their mission of making education accessible and accommodating students’ different learning styles. (“A Community College Teaching Career”)

#### **Recommendations**

1. As practical steps toward creating a campus-wide culture that fosters teaching, scholarship and research, we recommend the following initiatives:
  - Establish A Center for Faculty (which would sponsor speakers and workshops, award mini and semester long research grants and other projects)
  - Provide renewable funding from the college administration and/or faculty union for participation in professional organizations (TYCA, NCTE, MLA, and CCCC)
  - Endow faculty chairs (Funded by college foundation donors and awarded to faculty who have distinguished themselves on or off campus through their research and scholarship, it would require a yearly lecture or presentation by the chair-holder or by a guest speaker sponsored by that chairholder and brought to campus for that purpose)

- Support membership in a university-college consortium (Join a consortium of universities and four and two-year colleges to sponsor summer programs of research and study for their members).
  - Encourage applications for NEH summer grants and seminars (many government sponsored agencies are reaching out specifically to two year college faculty to apply for these programs)
  - Offer sabbaticals (Give faculty members the opportunity to develop and work on research projects—and renew themselves professionally and intellectually)
  - Institute research and scholarship as part of the reward system (While quality teaching should be the most important factor in awarding tenure and promotion at a two-year college, the value of research and scholarship, as it contributes to the development of the teacher-scholar and for its own sake, should be acknowledged.)
2. Given that part-time faculty have assumed an increasingly visible role in community college classrooms, we urge that, like their full-time colleagues, part-time faculty benefit from the opportunity to reflect on their teaching practice and to share their insights with other teacher-scholars.
  3. Given that virtually half of the students entering postsecondary education in this country do so through two-year colleges, we recommend that state and national committees, national studies, and collaborative efforts for the funding of state and national projects for the teaching of postsecondary English seek and require representation by two-year college faculty.

**Revised by the Committee on Research and Scholarship in the Two-Year College**

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<http://www.ncte.org/tyca/positions>