

Learning about writing by learning about community

ENG 108 ~ Fall 2014 ~ Purdue University

This weekend you will see some Purdue student volunteers around the International Breast Cancer Prevention Symposium, helping the organizers set up the poster session, coordinate registration, etc. These students are enrolled in my section of English 108, a first-year writing course where community service and engagement helps them learn about writing. As part of their coursework, they are not only volunteering, but learning about the community of researchers and scholars involved in the IBCN. Students will also attend conference sessions and talk with some of the IBCN participants from Purdue.

If you have time to answer some questions about your role in the IBCN, and the relationship of your research and communities (scholarly and otherwise), please let me know! I have asked my students to conduct surveys and/or short interviews (by email, phone, videoconference, or face-to-face if you are at Purdue) to learn more about the ways writing, community, and research come together in IBCN. Should you be interested, I will gladly share more background. (Short answer: Swales 1998; Spinuzzi 2003.)

Can you help? Write me at dilger@purdue.edu, or go to <http://dtext.org/ibcn/> to share your contact information with me and my students.

Please, contact me if you have questions—I will be at several conference sessions Thursday, Friday, and perhaps Saturday. I thank you and the conference organizers for giving us the opportunity to get to know your community and learn about writing.

Bradley Dilger ~ Associate Professor of English, Purdue University ~ 309-259-0328

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