

Taking Action Workshops

Come with issues; leave with strategies for action! The Taking Action Workshops are open to all attendees, with no preregistration required. Workshops focus on specific steps associated with Taking Action: naming and narrowing issues; building alliances; framing and developing messages; contributing to policy; and making action plans. Attend one or the entire series!

Taking Action Workshop Presenters



Dr. Glenda Eoyang works with public and private organizations to help them thrive in the face of overwhelming complexity and uncertainty. She is a pioneer in the applications of complexity science to human systems, and she founded the field of human systems dynamics (HSD). Through Human Systems Dynamics Institute, Glenda uses her models and methods to help others see patterns in the chaos that surrounds them, understand the patterns in simple and powerful ways, and take practical steps to shift chaos toward coherence. Her recent clients include the Finnish Research Institute (VTT), US Environmental

Protection Agency, British Columbia Ministry of Health, Oxfam, Yukon Territorial Government, Family Housing Fund, and the McKnight Foundation. Glenda received her doctorate in Human Systems Dynamics from the Union Institute and University in 2001, where she discovered three fundamental factors that influence the dynamics of self-organizing change in human systems. Glenda's latest book, with coauthor Royce Holladay, is *Adaptive Action: Leveraging Uncertainty in Your Organization* (Stanford University Press, April 2013). It is a roadmap for anyone who chooses to work at the intersection of order and chaos.

Taking Action Workshop: Naming and Narrowing

Glenday Eoyang, HSD Institute, MN

Our concerns are many and broad—but to take effective action, we need to narrow to a definable problem. What is your concern? What's the “so what” of your concern—to whom does it matter? And how can you narrow it to a workable, solvable problem? This Taking Action Workshop will help you focus the issues so that you can take action on them. (**Sessions A, D, F, I**)



Sarah Scanlon currently serves as the Arkansas State Director for Bernie 2016, the campaign to elect Bernie Sanders President of the United States. She has served as the State Director for the Arkansas Voter Registration Project (AVRP) and State Director for Give Arkansas a Raise. Both projects were focused on increasing registered voters in the African American communities and then turning them out to vote on economic issues in Arkansas. Previously Sarah worked with Wellstone Action, a nonprofit based in St. Paul, Minnesota, with a mission to ignite leadership in people and power in communities

to win change in the progressive tradition of Paul and Sheila Wellstone. Her primary focus was training activists and potential political candidates on how to run and win effective elections. Sarah has a long history of working on political campaigns and union organizing campaigns all over the country, and building collaborative efforts to influence and create good public policy. Along with her wife and young daughter, she resides in North Little Rock, Arkansas, when not on the road agitating for progressive change.

Taking Action Workshop: Building Alliances

Sarah Scanlon, Arkansas State Director for Bernie 2016

We all do better working together. Who else is interested in your concern, and how can you build alliances with them? This Taking Action Workshop will help you to identify possible allies and build connections so that you can approach your concern with others. **(Sessions A, C, G, J)**



Jenna Fournel is the Director of Communications for the National Council of Teachers of English. In her role she is working to help the organization think strategically about how best to frame messages so they lead to positive change. Jenna has worked in nonprofit communications for more than a decade in Washington, DC, as well as Chicago. She also brings experience as a high school English and two-year-college composition teacher to her role at NCTE.

Taking Action Workshop: Framing Messages

Jenna Fournel, National Council of Teachers of English

Exploring how stakeholder groups currently understand our issues (writing, students, learning, schooling, and more) is the first step in figuring out how to create change. The frames through which people perceive problems impact their willingness to be part of the solution. This workshop will help you learn how to use strategic framing to craft effective messages as part of your overall taking action campaign. **(Sessions B, E, H, J)**



Dr. Lori Shorr is currently an associate professor of Urban Education at Temple University. Prior to this new position she was the Chief Education Officer for the City of Philadelphia from 2008 to 2015. In that role she was responsible for advising the Mayor on local, state, and federal educational issues as well as creating and leading the city's policy positions on education at all levels. Prior to taking this position, Dr. Shorr was the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education at the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In this capacity, Dr. Shorr was responsible for the Department's K–16 initiatives including dual

enrollment, transfer, and articulation. She also led Governor Rendell's Commission on College and Career Success and served on the Governor's Job Ready Budget Task Force. Previously, Dr. Shorr was the Director of School and Community Partnerships in the provost's office at Temple University. Dr. Shorr was a public school parent for 13 years and Home & School President of her children's Philadelphia public school for 3 years. She received a BA from Pennsylvania State University and an MA and PhD from the University of Pittsburgh.



Carolyn Calhoun-Dillahunt has been teaching English at Yakima Valley Community College in Washington state for seventeen years. Prior to that, she taught middle school Spanish and language arts and high school English.

Carolyn has been associated with NCTE since her undergraduate days, first as a new teacher gleaning all the ideas she could from *English Journal* and local affiliate conferences and later reconnecting with the organization in graduate school through CCCC and TYCA. After engaging with her regional TYCA organization early in her college teaching career, Carolyn held two elected offices in the organization: TYCA Secretary and TYCA Chair. She is currently serving as Assistant Chair of CCCC. Through Carolyn's career teaching in public schools and public two-year colleges, she has observed and been affected by the growing federal and NGO involvement in education reform. Her experiences sparked her interest in policy work within NCTE. In fact, her leadership activities in the organization started about the same time as NCTE decided to pursue policy advocacy work as an important means of engaging its members and deepening its influence. Carolyn served as the Higher Education Policy Analyst for Washington state, tracking state policy developments, as part of NCTE's Policy Analysis Initiative and later was appointed the inaugural CCCC Policy Fellow. In that role, Carolyn followed and reported on the Obama administration's proposed Postsecondary Institutional Rating System and congressional work on the current Higher Education Act reauthorization. Her particular policy interests center on developmental education, assessment, and student access.

Taking Action Workshop: Influencing Policy

Lori Shorr, Temple University

Carolyn Calhoun-Dillahunt, Yakima Valley Community College

Often, we want to change policies related to writing, material conditions for writing education, and writers. But “policy” often seems large and confusing and it’s hard to keep track of policy changes and to know where to begin. How can we make effective contributions to policy and policy discussions? This Taking Action Workshop will help you learn more about where you can be most effective and how to contribute to ongoing policy and discussions. **(Sessions B, D, H, K)**



Cathy Fleischer is a professor of English at Eastern Michigan University where she teaches courses in English education and composition studies and co-directs the Eastern Michigan Writing Project. Committed to helping teachers add their strong voices to the conversations on education and educational policy, she offers summer advocacy workshops for K–16 teachers, facilitates a long-term teacher research group, co-directs a family literacy initiative, and writes and presents frequently on the connections between teacher research and public advocacy. Recent publications include *Reading & Writing & Teens:*

A Parent’s Guide to Adolescent Literacy and *Writing outside Your Comfort Zone: The Unfamiliar Writing Project* (coauthored with secondary teacher Sarah Andrew-Vaughan and winner of the Conference on English Education’s Britton Award). Fleischer also serves as editor for the NCTE Principles in Practice Imprint.

Taking Action Workshop: Making Action Plans

Cathy Fleischer, Eastern Michigan University

Once we’ve named and narrowed to a problem, built alliances, and thought about messages and possible results, it’s time to make an action plan. This Taking Action Workshop will help you to put your thinking into practice and equip you with concrete strategies and tactics for next steps. **(Sessions C, E, I, K)**