Event Title: Keeping It Lit: Nurturing a Literary Journal Program at Two-Year Colleges

Event Description: This panel explores ways to shepherd a community college literary magazine with diverse, high-risk, low-income students. Topics of discussion include: staff recruitment, pedagogy, editing, layout, budget, advertising, submissions, course credit, and technological tools. The panelists reflect on obstacles – some common, some unique – and equity-minded solutions. Faculty advisors share experiences producing print and online student journals and fostering a vibrant literary community.

Event Category: Program Development

Event Organizer & Moderator
Melissa Ford Lucken
Melissa Ford Lucken is a professor of creative writing and composition at Lansing Community College, where she serves as editor of the Washington Square Review. She holds an MA in Education and an MFA in Creative Writing. She publishes fiction as Isabelle Drake.

Event Participants
James Ducat
James Ducat is a poet and associate professor of English at Riverside City College, where he is editorial advisor to the literary magazine, MUSE, and teaches creative writing and composition. He holds an MFA from Antioch University, LA, as well as an MA in composition/rhetoric.

Mary Lannon
Mary Lannon's unpublished novel was a finalist for the 2023 PEN\Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction. A professor at Nassau Community College in Long Island, NY, she advises the creative writing club. Her work appears at Story, New World Writing, and Woven Tale Press.

Phoebe Reeves
Phoebe Reeves is Professor of English at the University of Cincinnati's Clermont College. She has three chapbooks of poetry, most recently The Flame of Her Will
(Milk & Cake Press). Her first full length collection, Helen of Bikini was published in March 2023 by Lily Poetry Review Press

**Opening Remarks and Housekeeping Announcements**

Welcome to *Keeping It Lit: Nurturing a Literary Journal Program at Two-Year Colleges*

This panel comprises faculty from two-year colleges in rural, suburban, and urban areas across the country, serving diverse groups of students. Each of our institutions publish a literary journal. Together, we represent a wide range of possibilities for what works best when working with the students, community, and administration of a two-year college. In the face of dwindling budgets and pressure for increased student retention, a journal can help a program or department thrive. We will share our perspectives on why that is so and how to convey the importance of a journal to others across the campus. We will also consider the ways a journal can serve student populations that have historically not been included in traditional publishing.

We will begin with an overview of the importance of, and challenges for, literary journals within two-year colleges. Each panelist will talk briefly about the specific features and challenges of their literary journal program, as well as strategies they’ve used to help meet those challenges. The panel will end with a 15-minute Q&A designed to invite audience members to share their own challenges/strategies with the goal of building community and offering much-needed inspiration toward future growth.

**Moderator Questions**

1) When considering academic literary journal programs, what characteristics are unique to programs run by two-year colleges?
2) Why does a journal program matter, specifically within the two-year college? How does your journal contribute to its department or program?
3) How does the journal program serve diverse groups of students?
4) What are some of the common challenges specific to two-year-college programs and faculty?
5) Which of those challenges apply to your journal program? What strategies has your program developed to address those challenges?
6) What is your long-term vision for your journal and the program that supports it? How will you and your program accomplish the goals necessary to achieve that vision?