

Hi, CAWPers, I'd like to introduce myself to you as I transition into the CAWP Director position this fall. I'm an Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at University of Illinois Chicago. My research focuses on equitable writing and literacy pedagogies, with a recent focus on disciplinary/science learning, climate justice, and theater and maker pedagogies. I've taught in both elementary and middle schools in New York City, where my interest in writing was sparked through my participation in a yearlong Teachers as Writers group through Columbia Teacher College Reading and Writing Project. While in graduate school in Urbana-Champaign, I both participated in a Summer Institute led by the University of Illinois Writing Project (UIWP) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and did research with some wonderful teacher-leaders there.



*Becca with Jonah*

I'm the mother of two young Chicago Public School students, a kindergartener (Theo) and second grader (Jonah) at Pulaski Elementary. I'm also a co-editor of a National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) journal [Language Arts](#), and I encourage you to reach out to me if you think you might be interested in writing a piece to submit to LA. Some of the [upcoming themes](#) include issues on Honoring and Sustaining Children's Languages, Supporting Science Literacies, and Reflections on Normalizing Struggle. Also: there is an [amazing](#) line up for this year's [annual NCTE conference](#) (Michelle Obama and Amanda Gorman, to name just two!), and I highly encourage you to check that out.

For a quick read on some of my most recent thinking about teaching writing, check out a piece I recently published with Chalkbeat Chicago, '[When teaching children how to write, we must also explain why to write.](#)'

In my new work with CAWP, I will be working closely with Andrea Vaughan, the Assistant Director of Research at the Center for Literacy (CFL) at UIC. Andrea studies the writing that young people do across the many contexts in which they live and learn, and works closely with writing teachers to research equitable writing pedagogies. Prior to moving to Chicago, Andrea was an after-school writing educator in Los Angeles, CA.

In this transition year, Andrea and I are hoping to start off strong with some workshop programming. We are looking for volunteer CAWPers with expertise and/or interest in the following topics: *writing for audiences beyond the teacher*, *multimodal writing*, *writing across the disciplines*, and *anti-racist writing instruction* (e.g., including topics like supporting writing in linguistically diverse classrooms). If you are excited about any of these topics and interested in

working with them to develop a workshop, please email them to me at [rwoodard@uic.edu](mailto:rwoodard@uic.edu) or to Andrea at [avaugh6@uic.edu](mailto:avaugh6@uic.edu).



*Andrea Vaughan*

**Let me tell you a little about Andrea:**

In her new work with CAWP, Rebecca will be working closely with Andrea Vaughan, the Assistant Director of Research at the Center for Literacy (CFL) at UIC. Andrea studies the writing that young people do across the many contexts in which they live and learn, and works closely with writing teachers to research equitable writing pedagogies.

Prior to moving to Chicago, Andrea was an after-school writing educator at 826LA in Los Angeles, CA. She also enjoys reading and drawing with her two-year-old son Julian.



*Andrea and Julian*

We can't wait to meet and/or reconnect with you this year, and to join the CAWP community more fully!

Becca and Andrea