**Slide 1- Title slide (Ruth)**

Welcome to “Meeting the Next Generation: A Cross-Campus Collaboration via a Scholarship Workshop”

**Slide 2 – Introductions (Ruth)**

* Lora Winters, the Assistant Director of the Writing Center at Pittsburg State University.
* Ruth Monnier, she/hers, a Learning Outreach Librarian at Pittsburg State University.

**Slide 3 – Pittsburg State University (PSU) (Ruth)**

* Pittsburg State University (PSU) is a regional comprehensive university located in Southeast Kansas.
* Serves around 6000 full-time equivalent (FTE) students, and our university has 200+ Undergraduate & Graduate Degrees and 1 Doctoral Program (Doctor of Nursing Practice).

**Slide 4 – Map (Ruth)**

* This slide shows where we are located on a map of the United States.

**Slide 5 – Goal of Presentation** **(Ruth)**

* The goal of this presentation is to explain a low-cost, high-impact outreach program that is writing-center related and to demonstrate how it could be replicated/modified at other institutions.

**Slide 6 – What is the Project? (Lora) -**

* For this program, we presented to High School Seniors about what scholarships are, how to locate scholarships to apply for, how to focus their searches based on their personal demographic information, and how to write effective scholarship essays.
* Partnered with our Admissions department to offer a $1000 PSU scholarship per high school we visited.

**Slide 7 – Why this Project? (Lora)**

* Why did we decide to create this program?
* Target local students in a different way. Our local students hear a lot about PSU in a general sense.
* In the research, one idea was repeated over and over—students who have a personal connection on campus are more likely to persist. We wanted to create that connection early.
* Raise awareness that the Writing Center and the Library exist and are resources for them before they even get to campus.
* We want to make higher education as affordable as possible to our local students.

**Slide 8- How We Did It (Ruth)**

* At the beginning of Fall 2021 (August), we started the logistics process – talking to our bosses and Admissions.
* Admissions agreed to provide $10,000 for our project to pilot it. Also, they provided a list of preferred school districts to target.
* November 2021 – submitted IRB application to measure our success and contacted area high schools via guidance counselors and English teachers.
* December 2021 – scheduled visits and plan timing either 44-50 minutes or a block schedule. Developed a presentation where 45 minutes was the basic information we wanted everyone to know.
* Visited these high schools in January 2022 and set the scholarship deadline for early March. With admissions funding, we guaranteed 1 nonrenewable $1000 PSU scholarship to each school that we visited.
* March 2022 - we anonymized the scholarship essays and ask our 3 judges to provide scores based on the PSU writing rubric. Scholarships were awarded based on those scores.
* Spring 2022 – We followed up on the success of the pilot program with Admissions, particularly the feedback and results from the pre- and post- slips. Following this, we re-met with Admissions to discuss the impact of the pilot and sought future funding.
* Spring 2022 - Admissions approved the program for the fall.
* August 2022 -updated the IRB, communicated and scheduled with the high schools.
* October 2022 - visited high schools.

**Slide 9 – Challenges (Ruth)**

* One of the biggest challenges was logistics.
  + Our other work schedules and availability.
  + Technology at high schools – making sure we could access the presentation, no matter the hardware or software.
  + Communication – locating the right person to schedule the visit with, emails lost in spam, and complete lack of response. Lots of time on the phone to finalize and resolve issues.
  + Communication & IRB – need permission from high school administrators for our pre- and post- slips per IRB; and Kansas law changed over the summer about administering surveys in K-12 schools which increased difficulty.
  + Time in the classroom varied - splitting the time between each of us when presenting and being flexible was important. Also, student time varied if there were school activities like homecoming.

**Slide 10 – What was Presented to High School Students? (Ruth)**

* In a typical presentation, about half of the time was devoted to information about scholarships – locating, using databases, and leveraging your resources.
* The second half of the presentation was focused on how to attack a scholarship application, general writing tips when writing scholarship essays (focusing the essay, telling a story, making it engaging and easy to read), and brainstorming ideas for the scholarship essay.
* Added general life tips in Fall 2022 based on what we learned while presenting in Spring 2022.
* Offered the students the opportunity to use the PSU Writing Center for help with their scholarship essays.

**Slide 11 - Feedback (Ruth)**

* We received a lot of good feedback from our administration, colleagues, and the students we worked with. Over the next couple of slides, I am going to share some of the feedback that was provided to us from our institution, students’ from the post-presentation slip, and teacher communication. Note that will be additional quotes that I will not read.
* "Highly appreciated as well as liked the quantitative data and how it was measurable" - The Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences
* "This was a great project! Thanks for making this happen." - Colleague
* "It’s obvious that you did a lot of work to promote Pitt State to area schools. … GREAT WORK…we appreciate all the effort that went into this project and I’m excited to see how it may impact enrollment in the future!" - Director of Admissions
* I enjoyed the opportunity to learn about prospective students. - Scholarship Judge

**Slide 12 – Feedback from Students’ Post-Survey (Ruth)**

* We also got feedback from the post-slips we used to assess the success of our program, and here is a sampling of that feedback:
* "It was a well thought out presentation + made me feel more informed"
* "I'm not going to attend but they make a good case"
* "I had no idea how to start searching for scholarships prior to this."
* "Deeper understanding of the process"

**Slide 13 – Feedback from Teachers (Ruth)**

* The teachers/counselors we worked with also had positive feedback:
* "Thank you SO much, and thank you for coming. It was very useful and HELPFUL!"
* "Thank you for sending this. The students have another voice telling them what is important."
* "It was great! Thank you! I hope to see you next year!"
* "Woohoo! Thank you for working with us!"
* "Your presentation was very enjoyable!"

**Slide 14 – Where We Are Now – Spring Pilot (Lora)**

* We visited eight schools in January 2022 and spoke to 225 students for the Spring 2022 pilot program.
* **On the survey taken before the presentation...**
  + 59% of students said they were considering attending PSU,
  + Only 31% of students had asked for outside help on writing assignments
* **On the survey taken after the presentation...**
  + 63% of students said they were considering applying to/attending PSU
  + 76% said they planned to use outside help when writing scholarship essays
* In Spring 2022, awarded scholarships and 9 of the recipients attended PSU.

**Slide 15 – Where We Are Now (Lora)**

* We replicated our program in Fall 2022.
* We went to 9 high schools over 3 weeks in October 2022.
* Talked to around 300 students
* Haven’t had a chance to analyze our results yet

**Slide 16 – Upcoming for Fall 2022 (Lora)**

* Added a drop-in scholarship essay writing workshop
* Scholarship deadline is January 17th, 2023.
* Some of the high school students who attended the workshop have already used the Writing Center for assistance.

**Slide 17 – Future Directions (Lora)**

* We are optimistic that we will be able to continue this program in the future with continued financial support from Admissions.
* We are going to continue to target the 10 area high schools and potentially expand to visit other local areas if asked.
* We also want to analyze our data to see if this presentation increased applications from those schools to PSU and if being awarded the scholarship increased the likelihood of attendance at PSU.

**Slide 18 (Lora) - Implementation**

* Are you looking to implement at your own institution? Consider these steps:
* Who are the stakeholders for you? (Supervisors, Funders, Participants?)
* What is the scalability and sustainability of the project? (one time drop in or physically going to schools?)
* How are you going to measure your success/report to your stakeholders?

**Slide 19 (Lora) -Questions & Comments?**

* Are there any questions or comments? Thank you for your time and attention!