



## Mentor Experiences with Mentoring Programs from WPA-GO: Duane Roen

Dr. Duane Roen, Vice Provost, Dean, Professor of English at Arizona State University, and longstanding Breakfast Buddies mentor

What did you like best about participating in this year's Breakfast Buddies (BBs) event?

*It was fun getting to know someone else in the field and sharing our thoughts about a wide range of topics. The room was abuzz with dozens of conversations, and it was exciting to hear the enthusiasm that filled the room. There was also lots of laughter in the room. It was energizing.*

How was working with a mentor at BBs from another institution different than professional development opportunities on your campus?

*Great question! At my home institution (which has multiple campuses), I mentor students, faculty colleagues, and staff. We often discuss some difficult challenges that people face in their professional lives. During the BB conversations, the challenges are usually a little less challenging. Also, the mentoring at my home campus often includes frequent in-person conversations across months and years. The BB conversations tend to cover a shorter span of time.*

What value do you see in mentoring? Why is it important for experienced individuals to make time to mentor at these conferences?

*Experienced members of the profession have lots to share with newer members. I think that each of us has a responsibility to pay it forward—to help others benefit from the lessons that we have learned over decades in higher education.*

What would you say to someone who is on the fence about participating in Breakfast Buddies?

*It's lots of fun. The conversations are lively.*