

## **Dr. Michael Cocchiarale, Widener University**

Welcome everybody to FUSE 2022, my name is Michael Cocchiarale and I'm the coordinator of the conference. Thank you very much for coming, just a few remarks before we get started.

I wanted to just begin with just a little bit of background for those of you who are unfamiliar with FUSE. FUSE is the Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors and the mission of the organization is to foster visionary magazine work and to support undergraduates who are eager to pursue careers in writing, publishing, and editing. Our yearly FUSE Conference has been integral to this mission.

FUSE started back in 2002, when students and faculty at the Writers Institute of Susquehanna University began working on a plan to establish a community for undergraduate editors nationwide. Every year since 2003, the organization has held a caucus at the AWP Conference. It started in Baltimore, 2003, and since 2012 there's been an annual FUSE Conference in person and virtual at Cabrini College, Davidson College, Pennington, Widener, Bowling Green State University, and Susquehanna. Students and faculty from Pennsylvania to California have attended and presented, just like this year.

This year's conference, as you know, is titled "How to This, That, and the Other Thing." There will be three sessions that will help you with key aspects of running your campus publications: "How to Social Media," "How to Find Contributors & Choose Submissions," "How to Submit Work." There will be a session, "How to Post-Graduate" featuring FUSE alums, who will let you see the many paths you can take after graduation.

Some of you have signed up for the "24-Hour Lit Mag Challenge" which will involve the creation of a literary journal from the ground up, culminating with a drop party tomorrow evening. Those of you who did not sign up for the challenge can still participate by submitting work to this wonderfully crazy literary endeavor. More reminders to come about this throughout the day. And don't forget you'll have another opportunity to share work at tonight's open mic.

As you know, we're going to capture some of the magic of this conference with video, but we'll also be doing some screenshots throughout the conference, just so you know.

And I just want to close by thanking you again for attending and participating at this year's conference, before we begin our first session, I just want to turn things over to Dr. Catherine Zobel Dent. She's the executive director of FUSE, and she has a few remarks.

**Dr. Catherine Dent, Susquehanna University**

Thank you so much, Michael, and welcome to everybody. I just wanted to say hi and for some of you, give you a face to go with the name of this person who keeps reaching out via email. Or maybe we've met many times in the classroom, or possibly at AWP, or at another FUSE Conference, so it's great to see everyone and really I'm just going to say that a lot of the thanks for this conference goes to the history of FUSE and the momentum behind it, but very particularly to some students:

Emily Hizny, number one, who has just been the National Website Intern and an amazing coordinator for many of these events, and there have been two other students who've really helped participate: Ellie Pasquale and Haley Dittbrenner, who have just made this conference come together, but all praise and thanksgiving to Emily Hizny. And then of course to Michael Cocchiarale. So thank you, and with no further comments from me, I can't wait to see what you all have to say.