Over 500 students per week seek help with their writing challenges from the Writing Lab of San Jose City College. 80% of these are underrepresented, underprepared, ESL students, or from disciplines other than English. Currently, no system exists to staff the Writing Lab with trained support.

This Writing Tutor Scholar project will select, train, evaluate, and remunerate peer-tutors on a pilot, basis. Specifically, it

- leverages excellence from the stronger segment of the student population to the weaker at-risk segment,
- rewards and utilizes the competence-of superior students,
- personalizes learning between peers, which is the strongest kind of learning situation.

Here's how the project works:

- Twenty students each semester are selected from a pool of honors and faculty recommended students beyond English IA. They:
  - receive one hour of training per week for the first five weeks,
  - tutor students two hours per week for 12 weeks and three hours per week for the last three,
  - attend weekly round-table discussions after training is complete,
  - visit classes of participating faculty, are put directly in touch with at-risk students,
  - receive a stipend ($250.00) in appreciation of their time and efforts,
  - record their service as a scholarship on their resumes.

We believe that this pilot be recognized as an economical way to maintain academic standards while supporting retention and persistence efforts for all students; both the superior—by employing them, and the at-risk—by offering them a peer-supported environment in which to grow.