The Liberal Arts Program presents

Liberal Arts Guest Speaker Series 13-14

“Failing Forward: Learning from Research Failures”

Dr. Rebecca Rickly

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ABSTRACT INFO:
What constitutes published research today is often a fiction. Articles about empirical research in rhetoric/writing studies/technical communication paint a picture of ease and neatness that rarely (if ever) happen in any research, but particularly in qualitative research. This presentation offers a series of narrative “failures” undergirding completed, published research that shed light into our field’s understanding of, teaching of, and our representation of research. These stories, along with both empirical and theoretical perspectives on transparency in research, provide a lens that we might use to plan, conduct, represent, and critique research, integrating failure into the process.

BIO:
Rebecca J. Rickly is a professor at Texas Tech University. At the center of her work is what she calls “applied rhetoric,” which includes such diverse applications as technologies, pedagogies, feminisms, methods and methodologies, literacy study, and administration. Her publications include Performing Feminism and Administration in Rhetoric and Composition Studies (with Krista Ratcliffe) and The Online Writing Classroom (with Susanmarie Harrington and Michael Day), along with numerous articles and chapters about research, pedagogy, technology, and gender. Currently, she is working on a longitudinal study about how PhD programs prepare new faculty to conduct research via coursework; also, along with Kelli Cargile Cook, she is starting an open-access journal on research and writing.