

Greetings from the 2014 PROGRAM CHAIR



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Welcome to Indianapolis, site of the 65th annual Conference on College Composition and Communication. It is my hope that our time together will encourage us to see even the most difficult challenges in our current landscape as opportunities for reinvention. The increasing tempo of change that influences our work, from constant software updates nagging us when we turn on our computers, to continually changing writing and communication practices, and the rise of mobile learning environments makes this an exciting, if dizzying, time for the work we do. Dramatically shifting structural relations that influence the functions and funding of higher education, our relationships with government and corporations, and even our notions of self and community, make the work we do even more necessary, though also more

challenging, in this exciting, dizzying time. As we gather to share scholarship and teaching, food and fellowship, questions and encouragement, let us be inspired by our own disciplinary history of working to democratize higher education, and by Angela Davis's deep commitment to democratizing our society.

This year's convention features almost 600 sessions, selected after two stages of rigorous peer review of more than 1,600 proposals. Stage I reviews, which took place online, focused on sessions proposed as complete panels. This stage involved nearly 200 reviewers from all over the country, from all types of colleges and universities, and from the entire spectrum of academic appointments. Each proposal was reviewed by three readers. Stage II took place in June at NCTE headquarters with a stellar, diverse, and thoughtful group of colleagues who scored individual proposals and worked very hard to group the accepted submissions into engaging panels.

I hope that you will be both encouraged and inspired by this year's Chair's Address by Howard Tinberg, a timely address that will call us to continue to pursue our work as a public good, in the public interest, in a moment where significant portions of the citizenry we hope to serve seems to have lost faith in public education.

After our General Session, we move into concurrent sessions, where you will have more than 30 choices of lively, compelling panels in each time slot. In addition to this multitude of panels, you will have a wide variety of SIGs, caucuses, undergraduate poster sessions, digital presentations, publishers exhibits, working sessions for committees and SIGs, and more.

I am especially excited about—and grateful for—this year's Featured Speakers, an outstanding group of scholars, thinkers, and activists with wide ranging commitments and interests who combine to make this year's theme and our ongoing work come alive. We are honored to have Dr. Angela Davis as our keynote speaker. Many

of you know about Davis's books like *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*, *Are Prisons Obsolete* and her recent work *The Meaning of Freedom*. You know about her commitment to activism that truly models intersectionality and coalition building. I am also proud that Robert McRuer from George Washington University will be here to address us. His work on transnational queer and disability studies will be instructive for all of us as we consider our collective agency and ability to engage heteronormative spaces. Sound studies scholars and music fans alike will enjoy presentations by Lynnee Denise on music and migration and Sommer McCoy, founder of The Mixtape Museum. Derrick Cogburn, from American University, will lead us to see disability issues as a global challenge and opportunity. Ken Crews, who has been well received at CCCC before, will bring an engaging conversation about the centrality of intellectual property issues to our work. Finally, I can't tell you how glad I am that our very own Elaine Richardson and Rhea Lathan have organized a session unlike any other you have ever seen at CCCC.

This conference simply would not happen without our amazing colleagues at NCTE headquarters. Eileen Maley, our convention manager, is simply a treasure. Thank you so much for your patience with me, and for your remarkable skill with all of the moving parts of the conference and its planning process. Kristen Suchor, I am grateful for your kindness and generosity in working with the officers in keeping our work through the year moving smoothly. Our Executive Director, Kent Williamson, has that rare blend of vision and operational ability where both are truly strengths; it's a joy watching you work to create the conditions where we can succeed and grow as an organization. We have an excellent Local Arrangements team this year, led by Tracy Donhardt from IUPUI. Thank you for all you and your team have done to welcome us to Indianapolis. I am also deeply grateful for the wisdom and hard work of our Stage I and Stage II reviewers who read and reviewed all our proposals and are responsible for the great program we have ahead of us for the next several days. Finally, I want to thank our former chairs and my fellow Cs officers currently in the rotation for your service to the organization, and for modeling wisdom and a commitment to our members in all of your actions and deliberations. I am glad to be able to learn from each of you as I find my way in the rotation.

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