

# Greetings from the 2017 PROGRAM CHAIR

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WA

Welcome to Portland, site of the 68th Annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. It is such a privilege and pleasure not only to welcome you to my home region, the Pacific Northwest, but to have the opportunity to engage with you as a *conference*, coming together in conversation and work to cultivate ourselves and our capacity for action.

The print program cover art—Steve Gardner’s *Three Allegories of Learning*, an installation of three panels which hang in Glenn Anthon Hall, where I teach—captures this year’s convention theme, “Cultivating Capacity, Creating Change.” Each piece—“The Garden,” “El Abrecaminos” (one who opens the way), and “The Torch”—symbolizes the actions necessary to develop current and future generations of teachers, scholars, and

advocates. As we convene for the CCCC 2017, I hope that we can use this time to nurture and enrich, resist and persist, imagine and strive, in ways that will sustain us, as professionals and as an organization.

The convention program offers abundant opportunities to do just that. More than 1,900 proposals, reflecting the breadth of our field, were peer reviewed to create this year’s program. In addition to preconvention workshops on Wednesday—and a 2017 innovation: free postconvention workshops on Saturday afternoon—attendees will have over 50 concurrent sessions, roundtables, and peer-reviewed poster sessions from which to select in every session time slot. Needless to say, the hardest part of negotiating CCCC 2017 for many of you will be choosing between so many interesting, high-quality sessions.

This year’s program features two new types of highly interactive, facilitated sessions: Think Tanks and Cultivate Sessions. These sessions, designed to be collaborative, working exchanges, provide a space on the program for members to work on shared interests and concerns in an informal, democratic way. Several of these new sessions are showcased in each session time block throughout the convention, providing attendees an opportunity to engage as a conference and enact the convention theme of cultivation.

Additionally, the 2017 program retains other traditional and more recent program components, including an Action Hub, a large open space in the Pre-Function E area near the Exhibit Hall, where attendees can participate in organized activities, peruse various informational displays, or simply meet at open tables to talk and work together. Conventiongoers also have the opportunity to “Cs the Day,” attend Special Interest Group (SIG) and Caucus meetings, engage with the Computer Connection and Digital Pedagogy Posters, play in the Gaming Lounge, visit the Exhibit Hall, celebrate colleagues’ achievements at the Awards Recognition Reception, and much more!

CCCC Chair Linda Adler-Kassner will kick off the Opening General Session with a talk that builds on her 2016 convention theme, “Writing Strategies for Action.” In it, she will discuss the challenges and opportunities inherent in working as writing professionals in the age of the “Educational Intelligence Complex” and how our disciplinary identity provides a foundation to navigate and perhaps change the conditions that contribute to these challenges.

Special Saturday programming has been designed to keep the convention momentum going right up until the end. After the Annual Business Meeting, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Define American CEO, and media start-up #EmergingUS founder Jose Antonio Vargas will offer a keynote address related to his work advocating for immigration reform. Vargas’s work embodies “cultivating capacity, creating change” through writing and digital media.

Saturday also includes a half-day of concurrent sessions and “cultivate” programming. Sessions related to teaching in the two-year college, high school and college connections, and library partnerships will be featured in an effort to bring CCCC to a broader audience, including area high school teachers and adjunct and contingent faculty. Immediately following Saturday’s sessions, free postconvention workshops on a range of teaching and writing program-related topics will be offered.

Few spaces are more generative and regenerative than a conference. However, in this challenging, even hostile, social and political climate, our time together is more important than ever. Let us use our time in Portland not only to learn together and enjoy some camaraderie, but also to build our capacity, individually and collectively, to address the issues we face and to create conditions for change, in higher education and beyond.

### **It takes a village . . .**

The 2017 CCCC Convention would not have been possible without the generous support I have received from so many smart, helpful colleagues. First and foremost, planning a convention cannot happen at all without the assistance of the talented, hardworking NCTE staff: Emily Kirkpatrick, Emily Nafziger, Marlene Knight, Julie May, Kristen Suchor, and many others. I am also fortunate to work with supportive colleagues at Yakima Valley College, especially Dodie Forrest, who was instrumental in every step of the proposal process, from CFP to scheduling. I am grateful to the many previous CCCC chairs who, through the years, provided models of effective convention planning and strong leadership. I am particularly indebted to Linda Adler-Kassner, who generously provided materials, counsel, feedback, and encouragement throughout my convention planning work; and to Joyce Locke Carter, whose “risk and reward” program transformed for me—and CCCC—the notion of what a convention can be. I also greatly appreciate my fellow CCCC Officers and the CCCC Executive Committee for their service and commitment to the convention and the organization. Special thanks go to the Local Arrangements Committee, led by Hildy Miller and Chris Nelson. They and their team of volunteers have worked hard to welcome you to Portland and make your convention experience a smooth and enjoyable one. Finally, my sincere gratitude to the many CCCC members who assisted with proposal coaching and Stage I and Stage II review, and to the large number of proposers who responded to the CFP. It is YOU who are responsible for such an outstanding program.

# Local Arrangements Committee Welcome

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As co-chair of the 2017 CCCC Convention's Local Arrangements Committee, I'm delighted to welcome you to scenic Portland, a dynamic city best known as a center for progressive values, environmental awareness, coffee consumption, bike-friendliness, and, increasingly, as a hub for comics studies. And, of course, for its rain. In March the weather is unpredictable, but you can expect tem-

peratures in the 50s with intermittent light rain. So be sure to bring a light parka with a hood so that you can do as Portlanders do: we rarely bother with umbrellas but instead simply pull up our hoods.

Our 2017 CCCC Convention Hospitality Guide found on the conference website will provide the information you need for transportation and lodging, restaurants and bars, shopping and outdoor activities, and cultural events. We are especially proud of the Accessibility Guide, designed to make your stay as comfortable and convenient as possible. And we encourage you to stop by our table at the conference, where you'll find volunteers to help with questions about hospitality and accessibility, along with information on registration, overseen by Local Arrangements Committee co-chair Chris Nelson.

The conference will be held right in the center of the city. You'll find a walkable, European-style downtown filled with restaurants and food pods, arts and cultural venues, bookstores, bars, and coffeehouses. West of it is the surrounding beauty of the West Hills, where on a clear day you can see a panoramic view of the valley below, and, perhaps, catch a glimpse of majestic Mt. Hood, a ghostly presence looming over the city.



On its other side is the Willamette River with Waterfront Park, a community green space with much to see and do year-round. And a short light-rail ride away is the Oregon Convention Center district with literally scores of restaurants, bars, and coffeehouses within a walkable half-mile. To get around, simply take the MAX light rail or rent a bicycle through Biketown from one of the innumerable orange bike stands.

Let me share a few highlights of the area.

**Downtown and Oregon Convention Center District:** Be sure to visit Pioneer Courthouse Square, known as Portland's living room, where you might find anything from an impromptu artistic performance to a political demonstration. Enjoy the many

restaurants and bars, while foodies must check out the Alder Street Food Pods. Coffee connoisseurs should seek out Stumptown Coffee Bistro in the hip Ace Hotel, and a Saturday trek down the tree-filled Park Blocks will take you to the Portland Farmers Market on the Portland State University campus. Also on the Park Blocks you'll find the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon History Museum,



with the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall just a block away. For nightlife, you might visit McMenamins Crystal Ballroom, a restored vintage venue with a “floating dance floor,” where Jimi Hendrix once performed; Wilfs near the restored Union Station for jazz and an old-world sophisticated ambience; and over in the Convention Center District, the Doug Fir Lounge for indie bands. Literati must go to Powell’s City of Books, an independent bookstore so large that you are issued a color-coded map to guide you through it, and to a small bookstore just outside the Convention Center District called Mother Foucault’s Bookshop, whose name speaks for itself. Sports lovers may want to attend a Portland Timbers soccer game at Providence Park or a Portland Trailblazers basketball game at the Moda Center. And shoppers should take advantage of Oregon’s tax-free shopping to buy shoes at Keen and Nike.



**West Hills:** In the West Hills overlooking downtown, you’ll find forests, parks, and gardens and see why the Pacific Coast of Oregon is said to be the greenest place west of Ireland. Hike or bike in Forest Park, a dense forest of trails where pale little trilliums may be blooming. Washington Park has its Portland Rose Garden with over 10,000 roses, and the Portland Japanese Garden, in authentic Japanese style, speaks to our identity

as a Pacific Rim city. (See also the Lan Su Chinese Garden, in the Ming Dynasty style, in the downtown Chinatown district.) And, finally, Council Crest Park gives you viewing from Portland’s highest point. On a clear day, you can see Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams, Mt. Jefferson, and Mt. McKinley from there.

**Waterfront Park/Willamette River:** Just east of downtown, you’ll find Waterfront Park, once a freeway until environmentalist governor Tom McCall pulled it up and turned it into a park that runs the length of downtown. There you can enjoy the walk and view the March cherry blossoms, visit restaurants, browse around the Saturday Market (which also runs on Sunday), book a cruise on the Portland Spirit riverboat, join a walking tour, or explore the infamous Shanghai Tunnels, where men were

abducted and sent to sea. And most of all, you can people watch. If you're lucky, you may hear the haunting strains of our flaming-bagpipe-playing unicyclist in his Darth Vader disguise.

**Portlandia/Keep Portland Weird:**

*Portlandia* fans must visit the feminist bookstore In Other Words in Northeast Portland, the site of so many skits in the series. Help keep Portland weird by lining up at Voodoo Donuts in the Convention Center District and sipping coffee at Rimsky-Korsakoff House just outside the district, with its bizarre rotating tables. And follow Waterfront Park to a median strip where you'll see Mill Ends Park, the world's tiniest park, only two feet in diameter, designated back in 1948 as the only colony for leprechauns west of Ireland.



**Special Events:** On Friday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day, celebrate at Kells Irish Restaurant and Pub with Irish music and dancing. On Saturday, March 18, join the Jim Berlin Pub Crawl through some of downtown Portland's best.

On behalf of Local Arrangements Committee co-chair Chris Nelson and myself, our institutions—Oregon State University and Portland State University—and our many dedicated volunteers, we look forward to your visit.

All best,



**Hildy Miller**

Portland State University  
Co-Chair, 2017 Local  
Arrangements Committee



**Chris Nelson**

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