

# Greetings from the 2015 PROGRAM CHAIR

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**Joyce Locke Carter**  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock

Welcome to Tampa, site of the 66th annual Conference on College Composition and Communication. This year, I encourage you to consider how risk is critical for innovation and action, two outcomes I hope you will foster at the 2015 CCCC. A review of the nearly 550 panels on this year's program shows that many people in our field are transforming the traditional work of writing and composition. Several of our members, for example, are creating interdisciplinary courses with STEM fields or taking entrepreneurial roles. These panels, selected after two stages of rigorous peer review of more than 1,800 proposals, highlight the risks we take in our programs, pedagogy, scholarship, and disciplinary boundaries.

We are also taking risks with the format of the CCCC, including extending and broadening the social media efforts that started with our 2014 conference. There will be a large space in the Convention Center—called the Action Hub—where members can meet, think, and write; the Action Hub will also house the new peer-reviewed poster sessions, the Computer Connection, the Digital Pedagogy Posters, and bulletin boards with action items from regular panels. Here you will also find Writing for Change, a project joining writers and researchers putting their skills into service of action—legislative, social, and disciplinary. During the regular sessions on Thursday and Friday, we have also scheduled Dialogs that focus on key issues in our field, including topics of technology, multilingualism, disability, alternative academics, and research. Dialogs are designed to increase transparency within the CCCC and foster inter/action among our members, the organization, and public policy.

Perhaps the largest innovations to this year's conference are Friday's Ignite Showcase and Saturday's Action Events. Ignite presentations are fast-paced and feature speakers who have made technological or programmatic innovations that push the boundaries of what it means to be "writing teachers." Saturday will be the culmination of action for the 2015 CCCC. At the Tampa Convention Center on Saturday, you will find events that help us envision ways to direct our energy from the conference toward action, both within and outside of the CCCC. Some of those actions include finding ways to be involved with the CCCC committees, considering state policy with the NCTE Higher Education Policy Analysts, discussing the way we disseminate our ideas, and working toward action that will benefit our organization through 2022.

All these innovations, though, only augment the valuable action-oriented events we have had in place for years. I especially encourage members to attend the SIGs and caucuses on Thursday and Friday nights, since they are key sites of member-

driven organizational change. Join us for Adam Banks’s Chair’s Address on Thursday morning to consider the complex position of our organization in a shifting political and social landscape and how you can be part of that dynamic interplay.

The conference would not be possible without the many talented and generous colleagues who assisted in its planning and implementation. The staff at NCTE—Eileen Maley, Kristen Suchor, Kent Williamson, and all the other staffers in Urbana—offered their years of experience and wisdom so critical to a convention’s success. This year’s conference is also very fortunate to have an energetic and strategic-minded Local Arrangements team, led by Dianne Donnelly from the University of South Florida. She and her group have been mindful of disability access, conference exhibits and setup, and Tampa sights and events; I am grateful for their creativity and hard work. My thanks also go to the many reviewers, both during Stage I and Stage II, whose names are listed in this program. Your thoughtful feedback on the record number of proposals submitted was essential to maintaining the very high quality of the conference presentations. I must give a very special thank you to Chalice Randazzo, my assistant at Texas Tech University, who participated in Stage I and II reviews, assisted me with reviewer correspondence and conference scheduling, accompanied me to Tampa for our convention site visit, spoke truth to power, and helped me with thinking through the logistics, rationale, and implementation of our new formats. I must also thank our former chairs, my friends and colleagues on the Executive Committee, and my fellow C’s officers, who gave me many of the seeds of ideas that have since grown into the new formats you experience in Tampa. Their invaluable service and guidance to the organization I hope to make even more transparent through events at this conference. Without all of these people, the innovations and actions we take at the CCCC—indeed, the CCCC itself—would not be possible.

