

First Time at the Convention?

With pleasure, the CCCC Newcomers' Orientation Committee welcomes all of you to the 2017 CCCC Annual Convention, but especially new members and first-time attendees. We have planned several events that we hope will help you get the most out of this conference. (These events and their locations are listed in the Special Events schedules in the program.)

On Wednesday, our committee will host an Orientation Session (5:15–6:15 p.m.), where we will discuss how to navigate the conference, how to use the program effectively, how to participate in the conference's many events, and how to meet others. We also look forward to meeting you at the Newcomers' Coffee Hour on Thursday (7:30–8:15 a.m.), a congenial start to the first full day of activities, where you can begin the kinds of professional conversations that have made this conference one of the high points of the year for each of us.

We also hope that you will attend the Think Tank (session K.05, Friday, 3:30–4:45 p.m.) for proposing presentations and panels for the 2018 CCCC Convention. At this session, you will have the opportunity to brainstorm initial ideas regarding papers and sessions, meet with other newcomers interested in similar topics, and also meet with established scholars in our field with expertise in the various program clusters in rhetoric, composition, and communication studies. These scholars will serve as facilitators, helping you conceptualize and frame your proposals.

This year, we are also hosting a session called "Career Quest: Navigating a Future in Composition, Rhetoric, and Writing Studies" (session A.01, Thursday, 10:30–11:45 a.m.). This interactive Cultivate session is designed for newcomers and early career attendees; its goal is to help participants develop a plan in which opportunities at the conference and within the organization can play an important part in their career development.

Throughout the conference, the Newcomers' Orientation Committee members will wear specially marked badges. Please say hello; we are happy to listen to your concerns or answer any questions you have. And feel free to stop by the Newcomers Station, where members of our committee and other CCCC members will be available to chat about the conference, talk about shared interests, learn about your work, and discuss how CCCC can support you.

With warm good wishes,

CCCC Newcomers' Orientation Committee

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