

AGENDA
The Comebacker Convening ~ Feb 6-7, 2020

DAY 1 | Thursday, February 6, 2020

8:30 a.m–5:30 p.m.	REGISTRATION & INFORMATION
9:30–10:00 a.m.	WELCOME Adult Completion Matters: The National Perspective Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lee Nimocks, Chief of Staff, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education• Hadass Sheffer, President and Cofounder, The Graduate! Network
10:00–10:30 a.m.	Kentucky’s Promise: The Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Speaker: Gloria McCall, Vice President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System
10:30–11:30 a.m.	MORNING KEYNOTE Promises Kept: How Tennessee Reconnects Adults to Higher Education Speaker: Mike Krause, Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
11:30–12:30 a.m.	LUNCHEON Speaker: Mary Gwen Wheeler, Executive Director, 55,000 Degrees
12:45–1:45 p.m.	AFTERNOON KEYNOTE Elevating Student Voice in Improvement Efforts Speaker and Facilitator: Dr. Danette Howard, Chief Strategy Officer & Senior Vice President, Lumina Foundation Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crystal White, student, Jefferson Community and Technical College• Brandon Weathers, student, Jefferson Community and Technical College• Jill Angelle, alumna, Eastern Kentucky University• Michael Dames, student, Northern Kentucky University

2:00–3:00 p.m.	BREAKOUT SESSIONS – Round 1
	<p>Helping Adults Navigate Multiple Pathways to College and Career</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Senior Fellow, Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce</p>
	<p>Creating Data-Driven Implementations That Work for Adult Comebackers</p> <p>Facilitator and Speaker: Hadass Sheffer, The Graduate! Network</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Bolton, Director of Graduate Admissions, Spalding University • Jessica Gibson, Assistant Executive Director of Adult Learner Initiatives, Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Student Assistance Corporation • Cedric Deadmon, Outreach and Advising Project Manager and Business Engagement Lead, KC Degrees
	<p>Making it Easier to Come Back</p> <p>Facilitator: Matt Bergman, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Evaluation and Organizational Development, University of Louisville</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn Medley, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Wayne State University • Catherine Sherrard, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana, Sellersburg Campus • Tyiana Thompson, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Services, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana, Sellersburg Campus
	<p>Redesigning Academic Systems for Adults</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nikolas Huot, Strategy Director, Complete College America • Michelle Horton, Director, Complete Florida
3:15 –4:15 p.m.	BREAKOUT SESSIONS Round #2 (REPEAT of Round #1)
4:15–5:30 p.m.	<p>NETWORKING RECEPTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster Session, “Coffee House” Testimonials, Appetizers & Cash Bar

7:30–8:15 a.m.	BREAKFAST
8:30–9:15 a.m.	<p>Kentucky’s Big Attainment Goal: How We Get to 60% by 2030</p> <p>Speaker: Aaron Thompson, Ph.D., President, Council on Postsecondary Education</p>
9:15–10:15 a.m.	<p>PANEL: Effective Employer Partnerships</p> <p>Facilitator: Dan Ash, Director of Bridging the Talent Gap, The Graduate! Network</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Todd Schmiedeler, Senior Vice President, Foundation & Workforce Development, Trilogy Health Services, LLC ● Beth Davisson, Executive Director, Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center ● Tim Ernst, Director of Human Resources, East & Westbrook Construction
10:15–10:30 a.m.	NETWORKING BREAK
10:30–11:30 a.m.	<p>BREAKOUT SESSIONS Round #3</p> <p>Strategic Partnerships for Community-Based Outreach</p> <p>Facilitator: Bridgett Strickler, Vice President of Network Engagement, The Graduate! Network</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gina Embry, Program Director, Student Support and Partner Initiatives, Jefferson Community and Technical College ● Michael Troy Shell, Lead Ambassador for KY Work Ready Scholarship, Jefferson Community and Technical College ● Elizabeth Teer, Associate Director of Admissions, Jefferson Community and Technical College ● Felecia Johnson, Professor, Coordinator of MCC Accelerate, Madisonville Community College ● Ella Strong, Dean of Innovation and Educational Technologies, Hazard Community and Technical College

	<p>Breaking Down Non-Academic Barriers and Braiding Resources</p> <p>Facilitator: Melissa Young, Director of Grants & Special Events, Council on Postsecondary Education</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Ellen Duke–Benfield, Senior Fellow, National Skills Coalition • Charles Brian McAdams, Academic Services Coordinator, Family Scholar House
	<p>Attracting and Retaining Underrepresented Populations: College for Incarcerated Persons, Veterans, and Older Adults</p> <p>Facilitator: Kathy Zandona, Senior Vice President of Network Engagement, The Graduate! Network</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans: Colonel Walter Herd, National Director of Transition Assistance Program, United States Army • Prison Education: Mardi Montgomery, Senior Director, Workforce Development and Community Engagement, Eastern Kentucky University • Older Adults: Jen Schramm, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, AARP Public Policy Institute; and Aneshia Gray, Senior Program Assistant, AARP Kentucky
	<p>Proactive Advising for Adults</p> <p>Facilitator: Nikolas Huot, Strategy Director, Complete College America</p> <p>Speaker: Cindy Firestein, Director of Undergraduate Advising, Simmons University</p>
11:45–12:30 p.m.	<p>CLOSING ADDRESS - The Case for the Adult-Friendly Institution</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Matt Bergman, University of Louisville</p>
12:30 p.m.	<p>CONCLUDING REMARKS</p> <p>Speaker: Lee Nimocks, Council on Postsecondary Education</p>
12:35 p.m.	<p>BOXED LUNCH PROVIDED</p>