



**COMPLETE
COLLEGE
AMERICA**

Doing the Work

2026 CCA Annual Convening
December 1-3 \ San Diego, CA

Welcome to San Diego.

Every year, I look forward to this gathering; not because of what's on the agenda, but because of who's in the room. **You are the people doing the work. And right now, that work matters more than ever.**

Higher education is at an inflection point. The questions being asked of our institutions are urgent, legitimate, and sometimes uncomfortable. But I've seen what happens when bold leaders choose alignment over fragmentation, collaboration over defensiveness, and students over systems. I've seen pass rates jump from 12% to 60%. I've watched states double completion rates. These outcomes aren't accidents. They're what happens when higher education and workforce work together.

That's what we're here to celebrate, interrogate, and build on this week.

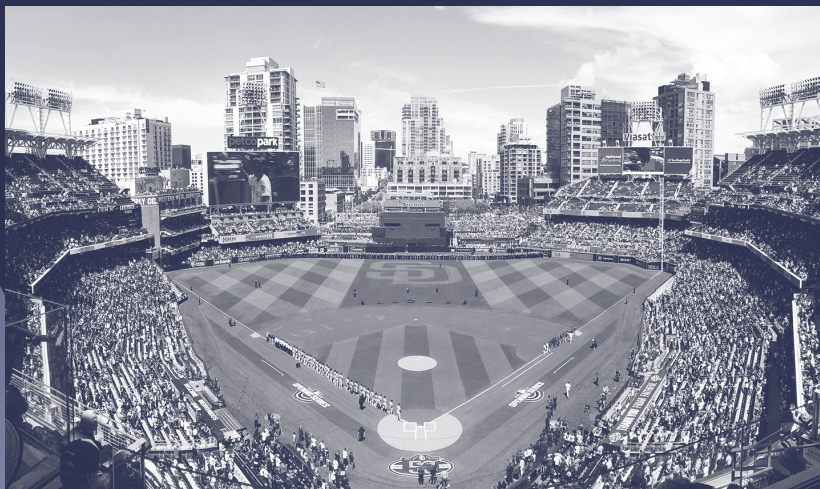
Doing the Work isn't just our theme. It's a declaration. It's a commitment to showing up for the students who are counting on us to design systems worthy of their determination.

So bring your best thinking. Bring your honest questions. Bring what's working, and what isn't. We're ready for it all.

Welcome to the 2026 CCA Annual Convening.
We're so glad you're here.

— DR. YOLANDA WATSON SPIVA
PRESIDENT, COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA

\ Special Event Info



Petco Park | Photo by Megan Ellis

\ Petco Park

100 PARK BLVD,
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

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Scan the QR code for more information:





DAY 1

“Doing the work is mostly the part no one applauds — the implementation guide nobody quotes, the partnership held together by unglamorous emails, the hard conversation you’d rather skip but don’t.”

— MEACIE FAIRFAX, M.A.

Strategy Director, Complete College America

\ Session Notes

**TITLE &
SPEAKER:**

**KEY
TAKEAWAYS:**

**ACTIONABLE
STRATEGIES:**

**MY NEXT
STEPS:**

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\ The Alignment Blueprint

	Who We Work With	How We Work Together	Opportunity for Improvement
Employer Partners			
Policy-makers			
K-12 Partners			
Community Orgs			



DAY 2

**“Hold the line on completion
— help colleges move past
good intentions and into
implementation that actually
gets students across the finish
line, at scale, with fidelity,
and in ways that stick.”**

— CASSIE WALIZER, M.ED.

Strategy Director, Complete College America

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\ Works in Progress

THE CHALLENGE I'M WORKING THROUGH RIGHT NOW:

WHAT I'VE ALREADY TRIED:

WHAT I THINK I NEED:

SOMETHING FROM THIS CONVENING THAT MAY HELP :



DAY 3

**“Create connection —
connecting people who have
a stake in creating systemic
change to each other and to
ideas that serve the goal of
economic and social mobility
for all students.”**

— NICHOLE MANN, M.A.

*Alliance Engagement Director,
Complete College America*

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\ Doing the Work

What are you moving forward at home?

THE MOST USEFUL IDEA OR TOOL I'M TAKING HOME:

WHO NEEDS TO HEAR THIS WHEN I GET BACK?

HOW I'LL SHARE IT:

MY COMMITMENTS:

IN 30 DAYS:

IN 90 DAYS:

BY END OF
YEAR:



Scan the QR code or visit
bit.ly/CCA-Doing-The-Work-2026
to view the complete schedule
and get stay up-to-date
on event information.



\ Resources



CCA Website

Visit our new website to easily find resources and publications that guide your work.

Visit CompleteCollege.org to see the site and connect with us.



CCA Amplification Lab

Find stories from leaders, practitioners, elected officials, and impatient reformers across the CCA Alliance.

CompleteCollege.org/Amplification-Lab



CCA on the Air

The CCA podcast, where we have candid conversations with higher education leaders on a variety of topics related to student success, college completion, and advancing CCA's mission and vision.

CompleteCollege.org/CCA-on-the-Air



CCA Publications

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CCA would also like to thank Gates Foundation and Carnegie Corporation of New York for their support for the organization's overall work and general operations.

Our Host Committee members:

Elena Quiroz-Livanis Maryland Higher Education Commission; **Kristin Clarkson** Maryland Higher Education Commission; **Jennifer Lynch** University System of Maryland; **Brad Phillips** Maryland Association of Community Colleges; **Ryan Maltese** Morgan State University; **Scott Anderson** Common App; **Melisa Hypolite** CollegeBound Foundation; **Alessandra Cipriani-Detres** National College Attainment Network



Scan the QR code or visit
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to access the full program and
event information for the event.

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