Community Colleges
Embracing The Future of Work

September 14-16, 2019
Nashville, Tennessee

Hosted by
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Welcome to the COMBASE Annual Conference

The Future of Work continues to shape policy and strategic planning initiatives in community and technical colleges with laser focus on responsiveness to key stakeholders and relevance to students. Workforce training and education of today and tomorrow calls for unparalleled innovative and progressive approaches to curriculum development and enhancements that drive student success. Gathering higher education leaders to dissect these most important trends and demonstrate solutions builds competitive edge and strengthens institutions. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 COMBASE Annual Conference!

The 2019 COMBASE Conference theme, The Future of Work, speaks to the very essence of the important work taking place at community and technical colleges each day. Since 1974, COMBASE has provided a unique platform for college leaders to gather and assess promising trends, discuss future directions, and discover implementation strategies for effective programs that build communities. This year’s program provides a robust agenda of presentations that focus on the Future of Work where attendees will hear from national experts in the field, as well as peers presenting demonstrated success on topics such as the future of work and alignment with public policy, apprenticeships, guided pathways, equity in education, competency based education and much more. Thank you for joining us! We look forward to a great conference.

Dr. William S. Wainwright,
President COMBASE
Saturday, September 14, 2019

8:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
COMBASE Board of Directors Meeting  
Jackson Board Room  
2nd Floor

Noon – 1:15 p.m.  
Buffet Lunch  
Woodblock & Letterpress  
8th Floor

1:30 – 1:45 p.m.  
Conference Open  
Woodblock

COMBASE and Tennessee Welcome

Dr. Will Wainwright, COMBASE President and Chancellor, Northshore Technical Community College, LA

Dr. Janet F. Smith, COMBASE Secretary/Treasurer and President, Columbia State Community College, TN

Dr. Shanna Jackson, President, Nashville State Community College, TN

Dr. Flora W. Tydings, Chancellor, Tennessee Board of Regents

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.  
Opening General Session  
Preparing Our Students for the Future of Work  
Hope Cotner, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Center for Occupational Research and Development

The Future of Work is ushering in rapid changes that will directly affect the technician workforce, posing both challenges and opportunities for community college programs. Learn how a National Science Foundation project is creating resources and identifying strategies to help colleges better prepare their students and communities for the technology transformation and workplace shifts already underway.

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Break

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.  
Presidents’ Roundtable  
Woodblock

Dr. Will Wainwright, Facilitator

Institutional Representatives’ Roundtable  
Brass Rail 2nd Floor

Sunil Gupta, Facilitator

5:00 p.m.  
Reception  
Headlines Balcony

6:00 p.m.  
Dinner  
Headlines
Sunday, September 15, 2019

7:30 – 8:15 a.m.  **Conference Breakfast**  
COMBASE Assembly Meeting  
Woodblock

8:30 a.m.  **Bus to Nashville State Community College**  
(Board Motor Coach at hotel main entrance)  
Auditorium  
Health & Human Services (H) Building

9:15 – 10:45 a.m.  **Forum #1 – Technology and FOW**

9:15 - 9:45 Cloud Computing and the Future of Work

- Mr. Mike Berman, Principal Program Manager, AWS Educate, Cloud Degree Initiative / Amazon Web Services
- Mr. Nicholas Lee-Romagnolo, Program Manager, AWS Educate, Cloud Degree Initiative / Amazon Web Services

For the fourth year running, cloud computing skills are rated as the most in-demand by employers as reported by LinkedIn. How can we turn this demand – which cuts across all industry sectors – into opportunity for our students? During this session, leaders from Amazon Web Services will describe their work with K-12 and post-secondary educators to embed cloud computing into their instruction and build pathways to high-demand careers in cloud computing. They will discuss AWS Educate, Amazon’s global initiative to support cloud computing skills for students to help educational institutions build certificate and degree programs.

9:45 - 10:15 Can We Make American Education Great Again?

- Dr. Lee Branstetter, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, PA

Recent developments in learning science and educational technology open new opportunities for education and worker training that may especially benefit disadvantaged populations. Dr. Branstetter will discuss the scientific and technological foundations for current CMU/Block Center efforts to address racial achievement gaps and enhance career training.

10:15 - 10:45 Q and A

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  **Forum #2 – Equity in Education and FOW**

11:00 - 11:30 Accelerating Student Success with Equitable Academic Support

- Michael Morches, Dean, Learning Enrichment & College Readiness, Moraine Valley Community College, IL
- Dr. Nina Shoman-Dajani, Assistant Dean, Learning Enrichment & College Readiness, Moraine Valley Community College, IL

This session will explore how building collaborative partnerships across the Moraine Valley campus contributed to the development of new academic partnerships aimed to support diverse students transitioning from adult education courses to healthcare career programs. By improving academic support and guidance, barriers to success were removed thus creating accelerated academic pathways for students. The presenters will discuss their journey and the many challenges and positive changes the college’s work brought to the campus.
Sunday, September 15, 2019

Continued

11:30 - Noon COMBASE IR Panel
Anne Havard, Senior Advisor, Economic Opportunity Office of Nashville Mayor David Briley

Bob Obrohta, Founder, Oasis College Connection Program & Tennessee College Access and Success Network

The panel will present further examples of equity initiatives.

Noon - 12:30 Q and A

12:30 – 1:15 p.m.
Conference Lunch
Art Gallery

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Forum #3 – Apprenticeships and FOW

The Future of Work provides colleges dynamic and innovative opportunities to respond to the needs of business and industry and ensure a competitive edge for graduates. Apprenticeship training provides unique workforce training solutions for colleges, industry partners, and students to engage in competency based education and training programs in leading high wage/high demand occupations.

1:30 - 2:00 Trident Youth Apprenticeship
Dr. Mary Thornley, President, Trident Technical College, SC
Dr. Cathy Almquist, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Trident Technical College, SC

The presenters will share the success of their youth apprenticeship program and the engagement with PAYA (Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship) supported by New America.
2:00 - 2:30 Mechatronics Apprenticeship
Dr. Tina Tinney, Chancellor, Nunez Community College, LA
Mr. Lenny Unbehagen, Executive Dean, Nunez Community College, LA
Dr. Daniel Roberts, Vice Chancellor & Provost, Northshore Technical Community College, LA
Dr. Arlanda Williams, Vice Chancellor of Workforce, Economic Development and Advancement, Delgado Community College, LA

The presenters will share news of the launch of the new Mechatronics Apprenticeship Program, a custom designed industry recognized program in partnership with Laitram, LLC, McCormick & Company, Elmer Candy Corporation and GNO, Inc.

2:30 - 3:00 Q and A

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.
Forum #4 – Guided Pathways and FOW
3:15-3:45 Further Redesigning America’s Community Colleges: From Guided Pathways to Regional Pathways Partnerships
Dr. Davis Jenkins, Senior Research Scholar, Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

Across the country, hundreds of community colleges and universities are redesigning themselves, mapping programs to good jobs and further education and rethinking student services, business processes and technology systems to enable more students to complete their programs as efficiently and affordably as possible. Colleges that are at the forefront of implementing these "guided pathways" reforms within their institutions are now reaching out to other institutions in their regions to develop strategies to break down barriers to attending college and help students prepare for changing labor market requirements. Davis Jenkins of the Community College Research Center will present the latest findings from research he is leading on “guided pathways” reforms in over 100 colleges nationally. He will discuss the efforts by a growing number of colleges nationally to go beyond their internal guided pathways reforms and build cross-sector pathways partnerships with area employers, universities and K-12 schools. Forging such partnerships is the next frontier for the “guided pathways” reform movement nationally and will be necessary if community colleges are to respond effectively to changes in the requirements for good jobs and growing barriers to college attendance that are challenging their capacity to continue to support upward mobility and workforce development in their regions.
3:45 - 4:15 BMCC Designing for Success: The Role of Guided Pathways in Strategic Planning

Dr. Karrin Wilks, Interim President, Borough of Manhattan Community College, NY

This presentation will provide an overview of Designing for Success, BMCC’s approach to strategic planning that is driven by the assertion that every college is perfectly designed to achieve the exact outcome it currently produces. Designing for Success integrates multiple planning initiatives, including that of BMCC’s Equity and Inclusion Task Force, BMCC’s participation in AACC’s Guided Pathways 2.0, ongoing dialogue to strengthen its culture of care, and efforts to improve career development opportunities for all students. BMCC is committed to systemically transform the student experience, designing for success at scale.

4:15 - 4:45 Q and A

4:45 p.m.  Day’s Concluding Remarks
Dr. Will Wainwright

5:00 p.m.  Coach to Hotel Indigo
Dinner on Your Own
Monday, September 16, 2019

7:45 – 8:30 a.m.  
**Conference Breakfast**  
Woodblock

8:45 - 10:15 a.m.  
**Forum #5 – Competency-Based Education and FOW**

**8:45 - 9:15 A Bird’s Eye View of Competency-Based Education**

Ms. Emily Smith, Associate Dean of Academic Excellence, Lipscomb University, TN

In this session, Ms. Smith will discuss how higher education institutions can deliver high-quality CBE programs that meet the needs of both students and employers. She will explore the importance of developing measurable, meaningfully integrated competencies and discuss collaboration with external partners.

**9:15 - 9:45 COMBASE IR Panel**

Valencia Darnell, Associate Professor of Mathematics - Clarksville Campus  
Nashville State Community College

Daniel Devers, Associate Professor of Computer Information Technology  
Columbia State Community College

Nancy Eisenbrandt, CCE, Chief Talent Development Officer  
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

The panel will present further examples of competency-based education.

**9:45 - 10:15 Q and A**

10:30 a.m. - Noon  
**Forum #6 – Public Policy Alignment and FOW**

**10:30 - 11:15 Federal Update in Higher Education - Implications for Community Colleges**

Dr. Casey Sacks, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, United States Department of Education

There are a number of activities at the federal level that have big implications for the work we do in community colleges. With the 2018 reauthorization of the Perkins Act, states are currently in the process of developing new plans for CTE. The Department is expanding second chance Pell. States are taking advantage of the ability to benefit provisions in ways they haven't in the past. There are changes around accreditation rules, proposals for work-study flexibility, and changes with the college scorecard. This conversation will highlight issues that are relevant to community colleges in the landscape of federal higher education policy work.

**11:15 - Noon Q and A**

12:00 Noon  
**Conference Closing Remarks**

Dr. Will Wainwright
About COMBASE

COMBASE, an abbreviation for COMMUNITY BASED, is a consortium of many leading community and technical colleges in the nation dedicated to sharing innovative solutions to meet the challenges of our nations’ rapidly changing economy.

In 1974, when COMBASE was established, a high school education was enough for most Americans to obtain a middle-class job. Today, everyone recognizes the importance of education and training beyond high school to be college and career ready and ultimately attain a good job and a living wage. America has turned to its community colleges to deliver what both students and employees need with new and innovative programs that leverage partnerships throughout the community and the nation.

See You at

COMBASE 2020

Watch the COMBASE website, www.combase.org and the COMBASE Constant Contact emails for conference notices, resources, and the COMBASE Collaborator.
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