



NEBRASKA WRITING CENTER CONSORTIUM

7 November 2025 | 9:00 AM–3:30 PM | Union Adventist University, Lincoln, NE

**“Hope is a function of struggle . . . forged when
our goals, pathways, and agency are tested . . .”**

— Brené Brown, *Atlas of the Heart*

Composing Hope

Despite the tumult of our current historical moment, writing centers continue to be places of connection and care—spaces where community is built, voices are supported, and fragmentation and polarization are met with dialogue and compassion.

Our theme this year, **Composing Hope**, invites us to reflect on how writing center work sustains and inspires us amid chaos and uncertainty. Together, we’ll consider how we nurture resilience in ourselves and in the writers we serve and how our shared practices can help us imagine more just, inclusive, and connected futures.

As we gather, we invite you to think with us about what hope looks like in your writing center. How do we help writers navigate questions of access, language, identity, and ideology? How can we be sites of care and resistance in the face of global crises, technological change, and the shifting landscape of higher education? And how might “practicing hope” become a form of composing itself—a daily act of building the futures we want to see?

Welcome to a day of reflection, conversation, and, most of all, hope.

Thanks to Union Adventist University Administration, Officer Manager Sandy Kolb, Faculty Assistant Adelle Hall, and Union Market for providing support for this event.

Program

All events except lunch will take place in the Ortner Center, Shawnee Porter Room, 2nd Floor. On the same floor, a designated quiet space and restrooms are also available.

9:00–9:30 AM	Registration and Breakfast
9:30–9:40 AM	Welcome —Tanya Cochran & Melissa Hayes
9:40–10:00 AM	Business Meeting —Melissa Hayes
10:00–10:10 AM	Break
10:10–10:25 AM	Interactive Interlude.
10:25–11:00 AM	Session 1: “Mutual Vulnerability: Developing Connections Between Writers,” Sean Crowell, University of Nebraska–Omaha
11:00–11:10 AM	Break
11:10 AM–11:50 AM	Session 2: “Anxiety, Assumptions, and AI: A Roundtable on Hope and the Contemporary Student,” Katie Kirkpatrick, Danna Swartz & Carla Vroman, Clarkson College
11:50 AM–1:00 PM	Lunch—President’s Dining Room, Union Market
1:00–1:40 PM	Session 3: “We Don’t Need Hope: We Need Tenacity,” Elva E Moreno Del Rio & Lauren Millhorn, Southeast Community College
1:40–1:50 PM	Break
1:50–2:00 PM	Interactive Interlude
2:00–2:30 PM	Session 4: “Building Community,” Cheryl Mendoza, University of Nebraska–Omaha
2:30–2:40 PM	Break
2:40–3:20 PM	Session 5: “Mediating Hope,” Ella Hansen, Tina Le, Andres Lopez, Alina Nguyen & Benjamin Reed, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
3:20–3:30 PM	Wrap Up & Announcements

Navigation & Parking

Address:

Union Adventist University
3800 S. 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506

NWCC 2025 Events:

★ Ortner Center

Free Parking Options for Union's Campus:

1. College View Seventh-day Adventist Church Parking Lot
2. 48th Street (Time Limits Apply)
3. Prescott Avenue
4. Ortner Center Parking Lot (Guests & Accessible)



NWCC NOTES

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