



# YEAR *in Review* 2021

## NCA WELCOMES DR. SHARI MILES-COHEN AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Following an extensive, nationwide search, NCA announced in November the appointment of Dr. Shari Miles-Cohen as the association's new Executive Director, effective January 3, 2022.

Dr. Miles-Cohen joins NCA from the American Psychological Association (APA), having served there since 2007, and brings considerable academic, administrative, and executive leadership experience to this position. Prior to APA, Dr. Miles-Cohen led the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, the Union Institute Center for Women, the African American Women's Institute at Howard University, and the Women's Research & Education Institute, and was a Congressional Fellow. Dr. Miles-Cohen holds a Ph.D. in Personality Psychology from Howard University.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Shari Miles-Cohen!



## ADVANCING THE COMMUNICATION DISCIPLINE

If you are a part of the Communication discipline, membership in the National Communication Association is an indispensable part of your professional life. NCA is the preeminent scholarly society devoted to the study and teaching of Communication. Members of NCA find community in the more than 60 interest groups that connect members with other scholars who share similar research, professional, or institutional interests. NCA's website offers extensive teaching

and learning resources, data about the discipline, and research and publishing resources aimed at supporting members with their scholarly and pedagogical pursuits. For more than a century, NCA and its thousands of members have made a difference within the Communication discipline, throughout the academy, in our communities, and beyond. Here are a few highlights from 2021.

- NCA awarded nearly \$90,000 in grants that will support member projects and programs throughout 2022.
- In 2020, the NCA Executive Committee approved an increase of funds for the Student Caucus Travel Grants from \$60,000 to \$90,000, with a cap of \$300 per person. In 2021, more than 300 students applied for the grant, which helped to defray some of their convention expenses.
- Through the 2021 NCA Awards program, the association recognized 31 scholars and teachers in 23 categories for outstanding scholarship, teaching, and professional service.
- NCA shepherded the publication of some 350 articles in NCA's 11 scholarly journals and worked throughout the year on the establishment of an additional journal, *Communication and Race*, which will begin publishing in 2024.



- NCA released 22 episodes of *Communication Matters: The NCA Podcast*.
- NCA initiated quarterly all-member emails highlighting recently released *Communication Currents* summaries of the latest research published in NCA's journals.
- NCA issued monthly *C-Briefs* to provide scholars with snapshots of relevant data about higher education and the Communication discipline.
- NCA released the *2020-2021 Academic Job Listings in Communication Report*, which noted that more than 500 academic Communication positions had been advertised in NCA outlets during the 2020-21 academic year.

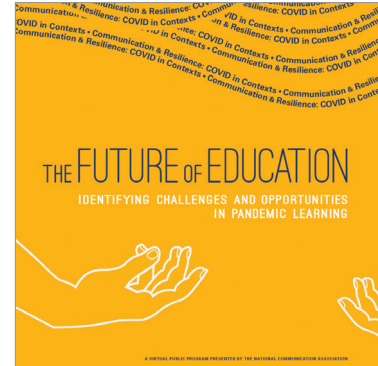


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## NCA BRINGS MANY OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many NCA events were moved online. NCA brought virtual events and materials to members and the public that were designed to help audiences meet the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- NCA's 2021 public programs were presented virtually and have been released on NCA's YouTube channel and as special episodes of *Communication Matters: The NCA Podcast*. The spring public program, "The Future of Education: Identifying Challenges and Opportunities in Pandemic Learning," addressed how COVID-19 has changed higher education and how these changes relate to best practices in teaching and learning, including in terms of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. The fall 2021 virtual public program, "Communication in a Changing World: Navigating Relationships During and Post Pandemic," explored interpersonal relationships and social support in the context of COVID-19, including teacher-student relationships, family relationships, and other support relationships.



- NCA's 6<sup>th</sup> biennial Chairs' Summer Institute, themed "Leadership Challenges in a Changing World," was held virtually June 25-26, 2021. Participants explored how to cultivate respect and inclusive cultures, how to manage challenges associated with digital learning and socially distanced department communities, how to motivate and mentor faculty, and more.
- The NCA 2021 Doctoral Honors Seminar was held virtually July 14-16. The 28 doctoral students in attendance represented 25 colleges and universities across 17 states and four countries including Canada, India, South Africa, and the United States.
- The 2021 NCA Institute for Faculty Development (aka, the "Hope Conference") was held virtually July 19-23. Participants included 60 faculty members representing 54 colleges and universities across 29 states and the District of Columbia.
- NCA's 2021 Mid-Career Scholars Writing Retreat (MCSWR) was held virtually July 26-July 30. Patrice Buzzanell (University of South Florida) served as MCSWR organizer and retreat facilitator, and mentors included Travis Dixon (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Laura Ellingson (Santa Clara University). There were nine participants.



**MEMBERS GATHER TO EXPLORE RENEWAL AND TRANSFORMATION**

At the NCA 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Seattle, themed “Renewal and Transformation,” some 3,000 scholars reconnected in person to exchange ideas and present new research. The Opening Session, “Honoring Past and Present: Communication, Culture, and Change in Native Seattle,” explored the role communication plays in Native communities, through language, art, culture, and ritual.



Eean B. Grimshaw



La Royce Batchelor



Abriel Johnny



Esther Lucero



Scott Pinkham



Tina M. Harris



David T. McMahan

Attendees also heard from Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecturer Tina M. Harris (Louisiana State University), who spoke on the topic of “Intentional Transformation in the Midst of Change.” And, in the NCA Presidential Address, David T. McMahan (Missouri Western State University) reviewed the state of the Communication discipline and future challenges and opportunities.

**NCA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS AS THEY WORK ON EDUCATING, INFORMING, AND SHAPING SOCIETY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.**