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Special Announcement

I am writing to you about an important matter concerning this year's NCA 106th Annual Convention, "Communication at the Crossroads," which was to be held in Indianapolis, IN. You might have already anticipated this news: This year's convention will be a fully virtual event. Synchronous sessions will take place on the same dates as originally scheduled, November 19-22, with some virtual meetings held on the days surrounding these dates.

After numerous meetings and careful deliberation amongst the officers, the Executive Committee, and NCA's National Office staff, NCA's Executive Committee has made the decision that the association cannot hold the in-person part of the convention. We arrived at this decision in light of the increasingly concerning news about the wide-ranging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and human susceptibility to it, and with the very best interests of the health of convention attendees and staff foremost in our minds. These considerations took precedence in our deliberations over what we know is the most important scholarly meeting of the year for many of you.

We continue to be hard at work to create the best possible convention experience. Specific details about virtual sessions, virtual events and activities, and ways to participate will be forthcoming through regular updates over the coming weeks. This information will be conveyed via email, through social media, and on NCA Convention Central.

In the meantime, if you have registered for the in-person convention, NCA will automatically convert your registration to a virtual convention registration. If you have made a hotel reservation in Indianapolis, please cancel that reservation. Some of you may have already scheduled plane, train, and/or other modes of transportation; regrettably, we ask you to cancel those as well. And, if you have not registered for the convention yet, please do so [here](#). As a reminder, NCA is not charging members for convention registration this year. And, membership has been significantly discounted. To renew your membership, or to become a member, please visit the [NCA website](#).

For a society at a crossroads, communication is critical to finding our way into the future as a community. We look forward to sharing research, teaching strategies, insights, and lessons learned online, and we especially welcome new and returning members to this year's unique virtual convention.

--[Kent A. Ono](#), NCA President, University of Utah

Communication at the Crossroads Series: COVID-19 and Implications for the Instruction of Communication

The Communication at the Crossroads Series at the 106th Annual Convention will feature sessions dedicated to exploring key issues within the Communication discipline, especially examining where we have been as a discipline and where we might be heading. One such session is entitled, "[Communication at the Crossroads Series: COVID-19 and Implications for the Instruction of Communication](#)."

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in tremendous disruptions in teaching and learning as schools were forced to abruptly transition to online instruction. The full implications of this transition may not be realized for quite some time. However, it is possible to examine the initial and immediate impact on students and educators. It is also possible to examine the impact on the Communication discipline and consider our response moving forward.

This special session will mark one of the first occasions when research pertaining to what instructors and students experienced during the pandemic is presented. Panelists will discuss their respective findings regarding such issues as messaging during the pandemic, contingent faculty, the intersection of home and school, and cultural implications related to risk. They will then collectively discuss what these findings mean broadly for teaching and learning and specifically for the instruction of Communication.

Those in attendance will be able to take part in this initial exploration and discussion and will be able to incorporate what is presented to inform and guide their own classrooms and home institutions.

Presenters include the following:

Shoaa Almalki, Howard University
Kristen Farris, Texas State University
Marian L. Houser, Texas State University
Scott A. Myers, West Virginia University
Candice Thomas-Maddox, Ohio University, Lancaster
Erik Timmerman, Texas State University
Michelle T. Violanti, University of Tennessee
Sara C. Weintraub, Regis College

Please join us for this very important session.

--[David T. McMahan](#), NCA First Vice President, Missouri Western State University

Enhance Your Convention Experience with a Preconference

Preconferences are half- or full-day sessions that take place Wednesday, November 18, and 11 amazing sessions have been scheduled this year.

The themes of the preconference sessions are intellectually and professionally diverse. The topics include mentoring, game studies, education, military affiliated learning, health communication, COVID-19, organizational communication, social justice, sustainability, and more. In addition, various interest groups are co-sponsoring these preconference sessions.

For the specific details of these programs, please visit the [Preconferences Information](#) webpage. The webpage contains more information about each session, including registration requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Shinsuke Eguchi](#). I hope you will choose to attend a preconference in November 2020!

--[Shinsuke Eguchi](#), Preconferences Series Program Planner, University of New Mexico

Register Today for a Short Course

Attendees are encouraged to register for a Short Course during the NCA Annual Convention this November. Whether you are exploring new theory or research/methodological practices, or seeking to freshen up your pedagogical approaches, attending a Short Course will certainly provide you with a new perspective. Short Courses are extended convention sessions that offer participants an intense, pedagogically driven experience. The line up this year is diverse and addresses theories, concepts, research practices, methods, pedagogical techniques, and other specialized topics of interest to communication teachers, practitioners, and scholars. These Short Courses are great for professional development and are being led by our discipline's experts in these respective areas. Short Courses are \$10 for NCA student members and \$20 for all other attendees.

While planning this series, special care was taken to recruit a diverse set of panels that will help grow this series in the

future. Additionally, this year's Short Courses engage the "Communication at the Crossroads" convention theme in meaningful and unique ways that should enrich the knowledge base of all course participants within a well-structured/well planned seminar atmosphere. For more information on the Short Courses series, visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

--[Brian Grewe](#), Short Courses Program Planner, University of Denver

Department Participation in the Annual Convention

The NCA Annual Convention offers several opportunities to promote your department and celebrate its successes over the past year. Department Members of NCA qualify for discounted registration for these department events.

- [Advertising](#): Share your latest departmental news and achievements by advertising in the convention program. NCA is now accepting applications for its 106th Annual Convention virtual program on NCA Convention Central. The application deadline has been extended to October 2.
- [Graduate School Open House](#): The Graduate School Open House is a great way for colleges and universities to interact with prospective graduate and doctoral students. The virtual Graduate School Open House will provide departments the opportunity to create a 15-minute video that showcases their program, faculty, and campus. Following the virtual event, the videos will be added to the NCA Doctoral Program Guide for future viewing.
- [Job Fair](#): The virtual Job Fair will provide a space for college and university departments that have open job positions to post job descriptions and other relevant information for candidates to view. This year, there will be no costs to organizations participating in the Job Fair.
- [Sponsorship](#): Support the NCA Annual Convention and promote your department, college, or university. Sponsorships present a unique opportunity to connect with all attendees. NCA is open to new sponsorship ideas; each sponsorship is a collaboration.

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