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## Thank You, Program Planners

A successful convention is the result of so much unsung work by our program planners who all have strived diligently to produce the wide variety of panels, discussion sessions, and other innovative programs that will comprise our 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. Consequently, I want to take this opportunity to sing their praises loudly and resoundingly. The duties undertaken by our planners are immense, including attending at training sessions, writing their units' calls for submissions, handling inquires and providing information, making difficult judgments and collaborating with one another, and most recently, applying their creative talents to bringing our exciting program into its final form. My sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to all of our planners for devoting their time, energy, and insights to produce what most certainly will be a fantastic and significant convention!

--[Roseann M. Mandziuk](#), NCA First Vice President, Texas State University

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## Program Preview: Special Sessions Sponsored by the First Vice President

Among the greatest privileges and responsibilities of serving as the primary planner for our 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention are choosing a set of programs to sponsor and creating a special series that will be of broad interest to our members. First, this year I am honored to sponsor a variety of sessions that celebrate, memorialize, interrogate, and envision. These include a program highlighting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Caucus and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Feminist and Gender Studies Division, memorial celebrations of the contributions of Dr. Judith Trent and Dr. Shawn D. Long, programs interrogating coloniality in the Communication discipline and the persistence of anti-Asian American violence, and a panel focusing on #AltAC careers. Second, thanks to the creative efforts of my fantastic team of planners, there will be four special sessions that comprise the "Renewal and Transformation" series: Democracy, Discipline, Disruption, and Dissent. You will learn more about each of these in future convention newsletters. I am so very pleased to have the opportunity to share all of these outstanding programs with you and I will look forward to seeing you in Seattle in November!

--[Roseann M. Mandziuk](#), NCA First Vice President, Texas State University

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## Register for a Preconference

I invite the attendees of the Annual Convention to explore this year's Preconferences series and encourage you to sign up to participate. Preconferences allow participants to take a deep dive into a particular topic in ways that traditional

convention sessions do not allow. This year's lineup offers some unique opportunities to take advantage of the half-day and full-day format and provide participants with an interactive experience. Sessions include workshops focused on helping attendees develop tools for Indigenizing methods of Communication scholarship, an opportunity to take an environmental field day excursion in Seattle, hands-on training in dynamic dyadic systems analysis, and many more. Several of the Preconferences substantively and significantly engage issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in meaningful ways, and I am particularly excited at this slate of opportunities for involvement.

The full list of sessions is [online](#) and I hope that you are able to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. Preconferences are free for convention registrants but do require a separate registration. Attendees can register for a Preconference session when registering for the convention. Several Preconferences have issued calls for participants, which can be viewed on the [Preconferences](#) webpage.

--[Alice Veksler](#), Preconferences Program Planner, Christopher Newport University

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## Convention Registration and Hotel Reservations Now Open

Registration for the Annual Convention is now open online. Discounted Early Bird registration rates are available until September 17, 2021 and offer significant savings to all attendees who register before that date. Please visit the [Registration Information](#) webpage for more information and deadlines.

The group room blocks at the Sheraton Grand Seattle and Westin Seattle are also open. For information on how to reserve a room, please visit the [Hotel and Travel Information](#) webpage. Please note that NCA is not working with any third parties or housing bureaus for convention housing, so be cautious about anyone contacting you claiming to represent NCA.

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## 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Program Available Online

The 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention program is now live on [NCA Convention Central](#). The online program is searchable by session or paper title, sponsor, keyword, and participant, and is viewable in a daily grid format. Participants can add sessions and presentations to their personal schedule within NCA Convention Central. A printable (PDF) version of the program will be posted online in October, and the print program book will be available on-site in Seattle.

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