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Annual Convention Update from the First Vice President

The NCA 107th Annual Convention in Seattle will take place as a face-to-face meeting. We are excited about the return to our typical convention format. However, the NCA Executive Committee acknowledges that, due to the extraordinary events and concerns related to the Covid-19 pandemic, some members may not be able to join us in person. Consequently, we will provide virtual access to several key events at our November convention.

We are very pleased to announce that nine sessions will be livestreamed for member access this year. These sessions will include three Convention-wide events: the Thursday afternoon Opening Session focused on Indigenous Peoples, the Friday afternoon Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture delivered by Dr. Tina M. Harris, Louisiana State University, and the Saturday afternoon Presidential Address delivered by Dr. David T. McMahan, Missouri Western State University, followed by the NCA Awards Presentation. The four sessions in the “Renewal and Transformation” series (Democracy, Discipline, Disruption, and Dissent) will also be livestreamed. Finally, two special sessions, one focusing on countering anti-Asian violence and one exploring alternative academic careers, will be available. Additional details about these exciting events and information about how to access the sessions will be shared soon.

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

Call for Convention Volunteers

Volunteer registration for NCA's 107th Annual Convention will open July 26. To be eligible, volunteers must be student members of NCA, and membership must be current through December 1, 2021. In exchange for one complete volunteer shift, with shifts ranging from four to six hours, volunteers will receive complimentary convention registration, which includes access to all convention sessions; access to the NCA Graduate School Open House and Career Center; a chance to network with professionals in the field; and the opportunity to learn more about the Communication discipline.

Prior to registering as a volunteer, please review your other convention commitments, such as sessions in which you are presenting or plan to attend. Volunteers are required to complete their shift in full to receive complimentary registration, and they will not be permitted to leave early or arrive late due to other commitments. Please note that complimentary convention registration does not include NCA membership dues. It is recommended that potential volunteers who need to renew their membership do so at least three business days prior to registering as a volunteer to allow their membership to be processed. If you register as a volunteer, do NOT register separately for the convention or pay the registration fee. View more information on the [Volunteer Information](#) webpage.

Department Events

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 107th Annual Convention print program. Advertisements and payment are due by **August 19**. Departments that pay for a print program ad by July 1 will receive a complimentary digital ad in the NCA online program.
- **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 Open House will take place Thursday, November 18, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Every department that registers for the Graduate School Open House will be provided with a booth where faculty members and current students can speak with prospective students, as well as field general questions about admissions and their department. Due to the popularity of this event, space is sure to sell out, so register early!
- **Job Fair:** College and university departments that have open positions can reserve a booth to meet and interview individuals looking for their next career opportunity. Every department that registers for the Job Fair will be provided with a booth that allows them to showcase open positions and their college or university. The Job Fair will be held in conjunction with the NCA Career Center on Friday, November 19, 9:00 a.m.-noon. From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., following a one-hour lunch break, employers may invite candidates back for an opportunity to speak one-on-one in their booth.
- **Department Receptions:** Department Receptions are a wonderful opportunity to bring together current and past colleagues. NCA offers meeting space for departments to host their own receptions. NCA will assign an event space, and then departments can work directly with the catering manager to plan the perfect event. Registration for reception space will open in July.
- **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.

Green Initiatives

The Washington State Convention Center and the Sheraton Grand Seattle aim to be leaders in environmental efforts designed to conserve resources, focus on sustainability, and reduce waste.

The Washington State Convention Center (WSCC) is silver LEED certified. The WSCC also continues to reduce its carbon footprint with sustainable culinary practices including sourcing food products locally and providing 100 percent compostable box lunches and food service items. WSCC regularly donates to FareStart, a program helping those in need transform their lives through food.

Sheraton Grand Seattle was the first to pilot what is now called Make a Green Choice, a sustainability initiative that incentivizes guests to opt out of full daily housekeeping. All guest rooms and corridors now use LED lighting, and the hotel is a leader in recycling and composting programs, diverting at least 70 percent of its solid waste trash from landfills.

Visit the [Washington State Convention Center](#) and [Marriott](#) websites to learn more about their environmental policies and practices.

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