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## NCA Annual Convention and COVID-19

Our Annual Convention in Seattle is now less than a month away. We have planned a fantastic variety of meetings and programs that are guaranteed to inspire and challenge us as we consider the theme of “Renewal and Transformation” and we are looking forward to seeing you soon. For those who are unable to attend, please plan to join us for our [nine live-streamed convention programs](#).

For those attending the Annual Convention, we have much information to share regarding the health and safety policies that will be implemented onsite in our venues and throughout the city of Seattle. Please keep the following in mind:

As you prepare for your trip to Seattle:

- Bring proof of full COVID-19 vaccination (physical card or photo of card) with you when you travel to the convention. You will need to present this vaccination card for entry to all restaurants and bars in Seattle, (including in the hotel) and to be verified for entry to all convention meetings and events, so carry this proof on your person when traveling around the city per the current King County [Health Order](#).
- NCA recommends that those who are unvaccinated stay home, stay safe, and do not attend the convention. If you are attending unvaccinated, please receive a negative COVID-19 test prior to travel (within 72 hours of arriving onsite) and expect to take multiple rapid tests on-site during the convention.
- Upload your vaccine verification or negative COVID-19 test results prior to arriving at the convention for a quick check-in process. All registered attendees will be sent a link for uploading verification as soon as the link is available.

Upon arrival at the convention:

- All attendees must go through on-site COVID-19 vaccine verification prior to receiving their badge and other materials and prior to attending any convention session. Verification will take place in Ballroom 6C of the Washington State Convention Center. Allow extra time to move through this process. Verification will be open during the following hours:
  - Wednesday 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
  - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
  - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
  - Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
  - Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Once verified, attendees will receive a verification bracelet, which they must wear for the duration of their attendance at the convention.
- All attendees must also always wear their badge as a secondary verification. If seen without your badge while in a session room, you may be asked to produce it, display your verification bracelet, or leave the session.
- Bring your mask (and backups). Wearing a mask will be required in accordance with the Washington state renewed mask mandate that requires that everyone wear masks indoors, even people who are fully vaccinated. NCA will have a limited number of masks available in the NCA registration area for those without a mask.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness on-site should quarantine in their room until obtaining a negative COVID-19 test.
- PCR tests will be available for anyone on the first floor of the convention center. Note that it will take 2-3 days to receive results.
- Rapid tests, which typically produce results within 15 minutes, will be available at the verification site in 6C for unvaccinated people to be tested daily.
- To help ensure attendee safety, NCA will:
  - Place hand sanitizing stations throughout convention meeting space.
  - Keep a stock of masks in the registration area.
  - Provide packages of sanitizing wipes in all meeting rooms to allow participants to wipe down high-touch surfaces.

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

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

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## Presidential Address and Awards Presentation

Emerging from one of the most tumultuous periods ever experienced by the academic world provides an opportune time to assess the state of the discipline and consider its future. My upcoming [NCA Presidential Address](#), "Assessing and Advancing the Discipline," will encourage you to engage in both reflection and action.

Compared with other disciplines, degree completion rates, job reports, graduate student placement, along with other measures indicate a favorable position for the Communication discipline. The discipline's expansiveness, strength of scholarship, and quality of instruction further indicate its significance and its impact on academic and societal realms. At the same time, we must be mindful of areas in need of development and must be prepared to adapt to fluctuating academic environments, if we are to continue advancing the discipline. These areas and issues will be examined, along with ways in which they might be addressed through both personal efforts and broader disciplinary endeavors.

Following the NCA Presidential Address, the annual awards ceremony will celebrate the year's best works across a wide range of scholarly, service-oriented, and pedagogical accomplishments. The NCA Presidential Address and Awards Presentation is sponsored by [Routledge, Taylor & Francis](#).

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

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## Meet the Candidates

Each year, the convention provides an opportunity for attendees to speak with the [NCA Second Vice President candidates](#). During the [NCA Second Vice President Candidates Forum](#), members will have the opportunity to ask questions, raise issues, and hear the candidates' strategic plans for NCA. The candidate is Marnel Niles Goins, Marymount University. Goins will share their visions on prepared topics and take questions from the floor.

The election for Second Vice President will be held in December 2021, and the Second Vice President elected in 2021 will be responsible for planning the 2023 Annual Convention and will serve as NCA President in 2024.

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## Hotel Reservation Deadline

The deadline to book a room in Seattle at the group rate is Sunday, October 24. Group rooms are still available at the Westin Seattle. Reservations at the Sheraton Grand Seattle have closed. For information on how to reserve a room, please visit the [Hotel and Travel Information](#) page.

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## Advance Registration Deadline

The Advance Registration Deadline is Sunday, November 14. Please remember that all presenters are expected to register for the convention. Membership must be current through December 1, 2021, to qualify for the discounted member registration rates. Attendees who register after the November 14 deadline will do so at a higher rate. For more information, visit the [Registration Information](#) webpage.

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## NCA Code of Conduct

When registering for the convention, all attendees agree to an [Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct](#) to support the safety and security of all convention attendees. NCA has contracted with a human resources professional who will be onsite during the convention to address violations of this Code of Conduct. To report a concern, please e-mail [codeofconduct@natcom.org](mailto:codeofconduct@natcom.org). This e-mail is not monitored outside of the convention. Please note, if you experience or witness behavior that constitutes an immediate or serious threat to public safety, or if you believe you may have been physically assaulted during the convention, please dial 911 and report the incident to law enforcement officials

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## Newcomers Welcome and Orientation

All those who are attending the NCA Annual Convention for the first time are encouraged to attend the [NCA Newcomer's Welcome and Orientation](#) session. The session will be held on Thursday, November 18, 8:00 - 9:15 a.m. in room 204 of the Washington State Convention Center. NCA leaders will be on hand to welcome you, give a brief overview of the convention and the association, and answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

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## Add a Short Course or Preconference

Preconferences will take place on Wednesday, November 17. These half-day or full-day sessions present an opportunity for participants to take a deep dive into a particular topic in ways that traditional convention sessions do not allow. For more information, including registration requirements, please visit the [Preconferences](#) webpage.

Short Courses provide convention attendees with a unique, pedagogically focused experience. These extended sessions are educational in nature and offer participants an opportunity to explore or reexamine a teaching or research area. Courses are led by experienced practitioners, including some leading researchers and textbook authors. For more information, please visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

Preconferences are free for all registered attendees this year. Short Courses are \$10 for NCA student members and \$20 for all other attendees and take place Thursday-Saturday of the convention. Short Course and Preconference registrations can be included in your convention registration. If you have already registered for the convention, you can still register online for a Preconference or a Short Course by logging into the [NCA website](#), clicking the "my account" link at the top of the page, clicking the "purchases" tab, selecting the "events" section, clicking the "details" button next to your convention registration, selecting the "add session" button, and then selecting the Short Course or Preconference you wish to add to your registration. If you are a convention volunteer and wish to add a Short Course or Preconference, please contact the [Convention Team](#).

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## All Gender Restroom

All-gender restrooms are available for attendees to utilize regardless of gender identity or expression. The designated restroom in the Washington State Convention Center is located on the sixth level near room 611. The designated restroom in the Sheraton is located on the second floor near Spruce and Redwood A. The facilities are marked with signage at the entrance. If you have any questions about the facilities, please contact the [Convention Team](#).

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## Special Use Rooms at the Convention

Several rooms at the convention have been designated for special use. One room at the Washington State Convention Center and one room at the Sheraton have been designated as private areas for lactation purposes. If you need to

utilize these rooms, please go to the NCA Registration Desk to sign for a room key. The rooms must remain locked at all times for security purposes.

Suite C, located on the sixth level near room 608 of the Convention Center, and Everett, located on the third floor of the Sheraton, have been reserved as private quiet areas for attendees. These rooms should not be used for meetings, phone calls, interviews, etc. If you have any questions about the facilities, please contact the [Convention Team](#).

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