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NCA Annual Convention and COVID-19

We are excited about the wonderful array of sessions to be held at the NCA 107th Annual Convention, which will be conducted as a face-to-face event. Please know that we recognize and hear your concerns and we are committed to adhering to all national, state, local, and facility health and safety guidelines as we continue to plan for our meeting in Seattle.

Per a new [health order](#) issued in King County, Washington State, on September 16, 2021, all attendees will need to provide verification that they are fully vaccinated prior to entry to public venues in Seattle, including our two convention sites. This order applies to all indoor restaurants, taverns, entertainment and recreational venues, exhibit halls, and convention centers. Masks also are required in these indoor spaces in King County. More information about vaccination verification and what is required by King County is available [here](#).

For purposes of the new health order, “fully vaccinated” means that a person has received all the required doses of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine (two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine) or a WHO-authorized COVID-19 vaccine series, and that 14 days have passed since the final dose.

As an alternative to providing vaccine verification, prior to entry individuals must provide digital or printed documentation from a testing agent, including a laboratory, health care provider, or pharmacy of a negative FDA-approved PCR test administered within the previous 72 hours.

Consequently, all attendees at our 2021 Convention should be prepared to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated by presenting their CDC Covid-19 Vaccine Record card or photo of their card, or documentation of vaccine administration record from a vaccine provider, including an individual’s doctor, pharmacy, or other official immunization record from within or outside the United States, including a photo or photocopy.

Please continue to consult our COVID-19 [information page](#) for the most current information. If you choose not to attend our Annual Convention in person, we hope that you will join us for our nine live-streamed convention sessions. Registration is not required to view the live-streamed sessions.

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

Convention Early Bird Registration Deadline: October 1

The Early Bird Registration deadline for the NCA 107th Annual Convention has been extended from September 17 to October 1. Please visit the [Registration Information](#) webpage to register now. Your NCA membership must be current through December 1, 2021, to qualify you for the member rate.

Per the [Professional Standards for Convention Participants](#), all participants are required to register for the convention. We encourage all attendees to register online prior to the Early Bird deadline, both to avoid waiting in lengthy lines onsite and to benefit from significant Early Bird savings.

Renewal and Transformation Series: Disruption

To “dis” is to treat someone with contempt or show a lack of respect, bring someone down, or critique or insult a person’s behavior, personality, or mere being. Can a pandemic “dis” higher education? The [Disruption](#) session explores what the “dis” in “disruption” means when analyzing the continuing effects of the pandemic on college/university teaching and learning. It’s an understatement to suggest that the pandemic is merely a “disruption.” Disruptions are usually unwelcome intrusions into the tried and true ways of doing things, the way we see the world and our role in it. However, connecting to the Renewal and Transformation theme, our disrupted approaches to teaching and learning create opportunities to reflect on how we typically do things, calling us to question our methods and innovate in ever-changing circumstances, such that growth is the result. In this Spotlight session, four pairs of teachers and students of diverse backgrounds come together to discuss the pros and cons of the disruption we all experience. Student perspectives are highlighted, in terms of how students manage disruptions to their learning and the growth they achieve in the experience.

This session will be [live streamed](#) for those who cannot attend the convention in person.

-- [Diana K. Ivy](#), *Renewal and Transformation Series Co-planner, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi*

NCA Opening Session: Honoring Past and Present: Communication, Culture, and Change in Native Seattle

The [NCA Opening Session: Honoring Past and Present: Communication, Culture, and Change in Native Seattle](#), highlights the role communication plays in Native communities, through language, art, culture, and ritual. This session, sponsored by the [Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society](#), will take place on Thursday, November 18, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific. The session will be [live streamed](#) for those who are not able to attend in person.

This interdisciplinary session includes scholars and Seattle community leaders. Eean B. Grimshaw, North Carolina Wesleyan College, will serve as the moderator. Panelists will include La Royce Batchelor, Clever Crow; Derrick Belgarde, Chief Seattle Club; Abriel Johnny, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation; Esther Lucero, Seattle Indian Health Board; and Scott Pinkham, University of Washington.

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S) Series

We continue to be challenged, transformed, and perhaps renewed and inspired in meaningful ways as we enter this new academic year. In many ways these transitions continue to stem from COVID-19 and social and political events that demand our attention and response in the classroom. At 107th Annual Convention, let’s come together to listen, share, and learn about the ways these experiences have shaped our teaching and student learning at the Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S) sessions. These sessions offer scholars and teachers from different types of institutions a chance to share activities, assignments, and methods that promote learning of communication concepts, skills, and theories across a variety of modalities and contexts. In addition to traditional activities and topics, several G.I.F.T.S showcase teaching activities that were derived in response to, or in reflection of, the COVID-19 pandemic and feature activities that offer opportunities to engage inclusion, diversity, equity, and access for students and teachers in renewed ways. Perhaps now more than ever G.I.F.T.S sessions can provide space for us to process, share, grieve, and grow as teachers and students.

For more information on these sessions, please visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

Department Chairs and Doctoral/Graduate Directors Forum

Each year, NCA sponsors sessions for Department Chairs and Doctoral Chairs/Graduate Directors to discuss important topics and current issues that face college and university administrators.

The [NCA Department Chairs Forum: Leading Through and Recovering from Burnout](#) will discuss both faculty and administrator burnout, challenges, and changes to teaching, research, and service because of the ongoing pandemic, and will offer healthier ways from both the faculty and chair perspective for recovering and leading through burnout.

The [NCA Doctoral Chairs and Graduate Directors Forum: Supporting BIPOC Students in Doctoral Programs](#) will be a roundtable discussion that brings together current and recent doctoral students alongside doctoral mentors and advisors to discuss challenges and obstacles faced by BIPOC students within doctoral programs and brainstorm interventions that are capable of creating inclusive doctoral programs that facilitate BIPOC student success.

Register for a Preconference or a Short Course

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](#).

Legacy Scholarship

The National Communication Association invites students to apply and compete for the NCA Legacy Scholarship award. The NCA Legacy Scholarship seeks to broaden the Communication discipline's relevance to various publics by providing a \$1,000 scholarship to a local college student pursuing a degree in Communication, Journalism, or related program within the host city/region where the NCA Annual Convention is being held. A \$250 award will go to the runner up. The scholarship award will be competitively awarded each year to a student based on both an essay related to communication and civic responsibility, and a convention theme-related speech presented during the NCA Annual Convention. Learn more about the eligibility requirements and nomination procedures [here](#).

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