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Greetings!

On behalf of the National Communication Association, I welcome you to this summit about bullying and communication. We are grateful for your participation, and we look forward to a productive day of dialogue about this serious social problem that affects many, from school-aged children to adults in the workplace.

In October, 2014, as then-Second Vice President of NCA, I established the NCA Anti-Bullying Project. Through this project, I hoped to disseminate Communication-based scholarship that had been written about bullying from a Communication lens and to enable our discipline to join important conversations about the nature of the problem and potential solutions.

Today, through our conversations, activities, and materials, I hope that we leave with richer understandings about how bullying gets communicatively co-constructed, how responses also send messages that contribute to emergent classroom cultures, how we can collaboratively manage issues of diversity and difference, accomplish civility, and reconstruct relationships through restorative justice and interventions. Throughout our dialogue, we will stress the centrality of Communication as core to the problem of and solutions for bullying in our schools.

Again, thank you for joining us today. We look forward to learning with you and leaving with meaningful ideas for fostering more effective and productive communication practices that lead to reduced incidents of bullying in our classrooms and academic communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beck".

Dr. Christina S. Beck
Immediate Past President, National Communication Association
Professor and Associate Director for Graduate Studies
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