



# The Newsletter



Clockwise from top:

An ArtWorks mural by internationally renowned contemporary artist, Saya Woolfalk

First VP Jeff Child at the Findlay Market, Ohio's oldest continuously operated public market

From left to right, Deb Ford, Jeff Child, Tiffany Wang, and Kathy Denker with the John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge in the background

Inside our latest issue:

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**CSCA 2025 in Cincinnati kicks off Wednesday, April 2nd!**

**Click [here](#) to secure the early bird convention registration rate by **March 1.****





# Presidential Spotlight

**KATHY DENKER**  
**BALL STATE UNIVERSITY**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As April approaches, I am looking forward to our conference and the conversations that we will have. If this is your first Central States Conference, I want to specifically welcome you and hope that you find the academic home here that so many of us have.

I am also happy to provide you with a few organizational updates. Since the last column, we have selected [Dr. Meggie Mapes](#) as the [incoming editor](#) for [The Journal of Communication Pedagogy](#). Dr. Mapes' scholarship, mentoring, and dedication to both open access and critical communication pedagogy made her the ideal next editor to continue to shepherd our journal forward.

We are also so pleased to welcome a growing number of students to our Undergraduate Honors Research Conference. With over 70 young scholars coming to join us in Cincinnati, I hope they find the same engagement, innovation, and home in [CSCA](#) that so many of us did when we first attended the conference. Please congratulate them on the strong quality of their work when you see them at the conference! And I would like to offer a special thank you to all of the faculty mentors who helped the students get to this point as well as all of the reviewers who took the time to offer such great feedback.

[CSCA](#) is again lucky to enjoy another exciting year of the [Faculty Learning Community](#). Thank you to the participants as well as the exceptional work of the [faculty leaders, Drs. Tiffany Bell and Natasha Howard](#). Thank you as well to all the faculty who have taken time to serve on the Next Leaders Network sessions. This year we will again have sessions focused on: research and publishing; teaching, applications and promotion documents; as well as a session focused on graduate students and a reception/space for informal mentoring conversations. I invite all members to attend, but especially early career scholars, students, and first-time [CSCA](#) attendees.

Again, thank you to all who helped make our organization and this conference possible from mentors encouraging our undergraduate presenters, the reviewers, our planners, and all of the conference team, especially Jeff Child and Tiffany Wang! I am also so thankful for the continued work of Kathie and Adriane Cesa. Thank you to the association staff and the executive committee, especially Deb Ford, Ahmet Atay, and Tiffany Wang for their guidance, dedication, and support. Thank you as well to all the Ball State faculty and graduate students for their support. See you soon and welcome (back) to another [CSCA](#).

Kathy Denker, President



Blue hour exterior view of  
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza  
Photo courtesy of EverythingCincy

### 2025 Rates

**Room Rate:** \$165/night plus 19.3%  
in taxes

**Self Parking:** \$33/night

**Valet Parking:** \$48/night  
prevailing rates

## Registration Open!

The 2025 conference hotel is the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza: art deco history meets downtown Cincy. We strongly suggest that you **book your room as soon as possible before March 12, 2025.**

You do not have to pay your room fee in advance -- you simply need a credit card to hold your room. **Once the hotel is filled, there will be no overflow hotels for this year's conference.** Those who reserve early should be easily accommodated.

### Hotel highlights:

- Centrally located steps from Fountain Square and Carew Tower
- Close to Newport Aquarium and University of Cincinnati
- Complimentary internet access in sleeping rooms for all attendees
- Complimentary shared Wifi in meeting rooms
- Fitness center

click  
here!

Or Call 

1-800-HILTONS

(Group Code: 978)

To Reserve Your Room



# First Vice President

JEFFREY T. CHILD  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

I hope your spring semester is going well. We are in the home stretch for “Widening the Scope” in Cincinnati, Ohio at the beginning of April. I want to express my appreciation to the 27 interest group planners who have done an extraordinary job bringing together exceptional, expansive, and exciting programming for you to experience this year. I would like to draw your attention to some excellent sessions that will engage and enlighten your thinking, such as [Kathy Denker’s Presidential Spotlight Series](#), including:

- The Ever-Widening Scope of Faculty Work
- Widening the Scope of Graduate Education
- Next Leaders Network Sessions:
  - Dealing with the Incoherence of Reviewer Two: Advice on Journal Submissions
  - Preparing for What is Next: Teaching, Applications, and Promotion Documents
  - Thinking About and Thriving in Grad School
  - CSCA Next Leaders Network Reception and Informal Mentoring Opportunities

Kathy is someone truly dedicated to the mentorship and enhancement of [CSCA](#) members. I hope you find a chance to thank her for her leadership and initiatives as [CSCA](#) President.

I hope to see you in attendance at [Second Vice-President Kristina Scharp’s Pre-Conference: Translating What We Know to the Public](#). Helping the public understand how our scholarly contributions can improve daily life and interactions with others has never been more important. We are so lucky to have her expertise and connections in translating our work to have greater impact.

This year’s [First Vice-President](#) sponsored sessions include:

- Widening the Scope of the Responsibilities and Challenges of Department Chairpersons and Directors planned by [Dawn O. Braithwaite](#)
- Widening the Scope: The Need for Critical and Intergenerational Communication Studies
- The [Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Speaker Series Keynote: Dr. Eddah Mutua](#), from St. Cloud State University (co-sponsored with the ERICC Caucus)

Consider attending one of our [scholar Conversations](#), with [Tony Adams](#), [Danielle Stern](#), or [Eddah Mutua](#). Finally, celebrate, in conference sessions and in your conversations with one another, the life and scholarship of some of our dearest association members who have passed on, including: [Sandra Petronio](#), [M. Chad McBride](#), [John J. McKay](#), and [Meg Tully](#).

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As we visit Cincinnati, make sure you get out into the community and explore all of the amazing things that the conference venue has to offer, including [the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#). Before or after you visit the center, attend our unique exhibit on Friday morning created by a team of undergraduate students from Ball State University. [Madison Marshall and Beth A. Messner](#) will present this mobile and interactive exhibit, sponsored by the Activism, Communication, Ethics, and Social Justice Interest Group titled, "Exhibit! Activism on the Underground: History as Pedagogical Praxis."

I am so grateful to my amazing graduate students from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas - [Marilyn Nimmo and David Mayser](#) who have been working on a "Widening the Scope" supplemental conference booklet and passport "sticker" challenge.

In the booklet they bring together a map of Cincinnati, landmarks in the community to check out, local restaurants and entertainment you can check out, tips for graduate students, and a "Widening Your Scope Challenge." You can expand your 2025 CSCA conference experience through the challenge and enter a lottery to win a digital \$50 Amazon gift card.

Thanks again to the countless people who played a role in making this conference happen, including the reviewers, mentors, faculty member, and presenters willing to showcase your ideas and research. I am especially grateful for [Kathie Cesa, Deb Ford, Kathy Denker, and Kristina Scharp](#) for your guidance, support, mentorship, and dedication to CSCA. Finally, I am indebted to [outgoing Executive Director, Tiffany Wang](#), who without her expertise, energy, and enthusiasm "Widening the Scope" and CSCA 2025 wouldn't be possible. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in April!

My best,

[Jeffrey T. Child](#), First Vice President

# Come to Cincinnati!

As we look ahead to our [CSCA 2025](#) convention where we'll be Widening the Scope, I've created an acrostic to help you prepare to come to Cincinnati!

**C**onnecting with Friends: Whether you're grabbing a quick bite at The Grille at 1931 before your first session, sipping a cocktail or mocktail at The Lounge at 1931, closing out the day with a decadent dinner at The 1931, or simply engaging in a serendipitous hallway conversation, there are so many great spaces where you can connect with friends and colleagues at the hotel.

**I**nnovative Sessions: We are fortunate to have Jeff Child as our primary program planner this year. Thanks to him and our hardworking unit planners, you will have hundreds of innovative sessions to choose from this year. I'm going to make time to show my undergraduate student interns around the UHRC Graduate School Fair which will take place on Saturday at 11:30 am in the Hall of Mirrors.

**N**ext Leaders Network Reception: Join us for the [CSCA](#) Next Leaders Network Reception on Saturday at 2:00 pm in Rosewood! This is a great opportunity for early career scholars, students, and first-time CSCA attendees to learn more about CSCA, interact with CSCA members, and help shape the future direction of the association.

**C**SCA Scholar Conversations: Join us for panel-length interviews with outstanding communication scholars who reflect on their most important scholarship and contributions. This year's scholar conversations feature [Tony Adams](#) (Bradley University), [Danielle Stern](#) (Christopher Newport University), and [Eddah Mutua](#) (St. Cloud State University).

**I**nclusivity Speaker Series Address from Dr. Eddah Mutua: Be sure to RSVP for Friday's [Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Speaker Series Keynote Address](#) which will take place at 6:00 pm in the Hall of Mirrors. [Dr. Eddah Mutua](#) is Professor of Intercultural Communication in the Judy C. Pearson Department of Communication Studies at St. Cloud State University.

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## Executive Director

**TIFFANY R. WANG -  
UNIVERSITY OF  
MONTEVALLO**

**Night-time Receptions:** If you've attended [CSCA](#) before, you'll know we have two receptions you won't want to miss! Be sure to RSVP for Thursday's Opening Reception which will be held at the Anderson Pavilion and Saturday's President's Party which will be held in the Hall of Mirrors. Catch up with your [CSCA](#) friends and family while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and drinks!

**Noteworthy Newcomers:** Come celebrate our graduate students who will be presenting on the Past Officers Debut Paper Award Panel which will take place on Saturday at 11:00 am in Salon B! You can also hear from our undergraduate students who will be presenting at Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Session 3: Top Papers on Friday at 11:00 am in Caprice 3!

**Awards Luncheon:** Be sure to RSVP for Friday's Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting. We'll be honoring our **2025** association wide award recipients. We'll also be celebrating outstanding undergraduate and graduate student scholars. Learn more about our winners each week on [CSCA Facebook/Instagram](#) when we celebrate #WinnerWednesday!

**Translating What We Know to the Public Pre-Conference:** Come a day early and kick off your convention with this year's pre-conference. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can translate your research to the public. We're confident you'll leave with strategies for moving your research from journal pages and the classroom to the public.

**Inviting Restaurants:** As you can tell from my recent column, you will have no problem finding an inviting restaurant in Cincinnati! I highly recommend Maplewood Kitchen and Bar's Lemon Ricotta Pancakes, Via Vite Ristorante's Handmade Crispy Gnocchi, and Nada's Churros. You can also take a taste of Cincinnati home with you at the Findlay Market!

Make sure you register for the convention and hotel early so you can take advantage of the early bird convention registration rate! We can't wait for you to come to Cincinnati! [Tiffany](#)

**EARLY BIRD**  
*Closes March 1*  
**DISCOUNT**

**REGISTRATION RATES**

Regular Member	\$125
Regular* Member	\$100
Graduate Student Member	\$55
Undergraduate Student Pass	\$30
Emeritus Member	\$70
Regular Nonmember	\$185
Regular* Nonmember	\$160
Graduate Student Nonmember	\$105
Day Pass	\$70/day

\*non-tenure track, temporary, adjunct



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# Executive Director & Staff



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