

ACESJ Central States Communication Association 2025 Business Meeting Notes

2024 Meeting Minutes unanimously approved

Top Paper Certificate Awarded: Top Inclusive Scholarship Paper - Heather Walters

Other winners: Top paper Jay Baglia. Top Debut Student Paper George Torto. Top Panel Award Winner: Kevin Barge, Nichelle McNabb, Shelly Schafer Hinck and Ashley Ann Hinck

Secretary Elect: No nominations. Put nominations to group members.

Out-going Chair: Kristi Scholten, Ferris State University

Vice Chair (moving into President): Heather Walters, Missouri State University

Current Secretary (moving into VP): Samentha Sepulveda, Northeastern Illinois University

Report on 2024:

- 14 papers submitted – co-sponsored 2 with argumentative division and undergraduate division (compared to 16 papers for 2023 conference)
- 2 panels submitted
- 7 sessions (compared to 12 sessions for 2023 and 3 sessions for 2022 conference)
- Submissions, from what Kristi knows, were down overall.
- Attendees of meeting were encouraged to visit the special exhibit: Activism on the Underground: Public History as Pedagogical Praxis. Highly interactive site in the history of the underground railroad, which was put together by undergraduate students.

CSCA 2026 Conference Theme: Translate! - How can educators bridge academia and activism through engaged pedagogy and partnerships with social justice organizations.

Goals: Continue to increase our submissions - Submission deadline is October 10th.

Discussion:

1. What to do, if anything, about extended abstracts. Suggestion to create a panel specifically for extended abstracts/works in progress in a round table fashion was offered. Karla Hunter would like to help with the outreach of this idea.
2. Partner with GIFTS division; specific call to teaching and activism.
3. Owamni by The Sioux Chef: Is there an activism story there? Maybe someone from the restaurant can give a talk. Can we open this “event” to the public to encourage

the translate theme (Making research more accessible to non-academic audiences, particularly communities who are the subjects of study).

4. Como Park Zoo & Conservatory: weatherproof enclosures, ethics of or lack thereof.
5. The Land of Ten Thousand Lakes/Water activism: Amount of fresh water it takes to cool serves; environmental racism; is anyone trying to build a cooling station?
6. BLM update: George Floyd update? Active chapter or memorial? Rhetorical construction of. Sites of racial healing.
7. Executive order to reinstate confederate monuments. Engaging in activism to protect those monuments that are counter to the racist ideologies that are inherent in confederate monuments.
8. Amy Aldridge Sanford: how do we translate messages of activism to resistant audiences? “Low walls among neighbors.”

In attendance:

- Jay Baglia wbaglia@depaul.edu
- Karla Hunter karla.hunter@sdstaate.edu
- Joshua Groeling joshua@igroeling.com
- Von Herring vonherringg@gmail.com
- Sandy Pensoneau-Conway sandypc@siu.edu
- Stephanie Thomson stephaniethomson@ferries.edu