



# The Newsletter



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As we look ahead to our 2026 convention, **Translate**, we are also taking note of the transitions at CSCA. This month we welcome Jeff Child's first column as CSCA President, our new First VP Kristina Scharp shares the call for submissions for CSCA 2026, and we once again congratulate this year's award winners. The biggest transition of our year, is welcoming Deb Ford as CSCA's next Executive Director, and thanking Tiffany Wang for her stewardship of the organization. And each of us are, slowly, transitioning from our summer vacations and beginning our preparations for our next academic year.

Transitioning to the future, the call for submissions for **Translate** is out (see pg. 5). You are invited to submit competitive papers, panel discussions, and performance sessions for the annual convention. The conference will feature:

- Research paper sessions and discussion panels organized by Interest Groups and Caucuses
- Great Ideas For Teaching (GIFT) sessions
- Regional scholarship showcases organized by the States Advisory Council
- Undergraduate Honors Research Conference
- Federation Prize recipient presentation
- Spotlight panels connected to conference theme

... and much more!

Registration for the 2026 Convention will open in January 2026!



# Presidential Spotlight

**JEFFREY T. CHILD**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS**

Welcome to the summer! I hope your end of the spring semester wrapped up nicely. It's hard to believe that it has been almost two months since we convened in Cincy to engage in "Widening the Scope." I extend my appreciation to all of the interest group planners, the Executive Committee (EC) of CSCA, Dr. Kristina Scharp-1st VP, Kathie Cesa-Member Services, Dr. Tiffany Wang-Past Executive Director, and Dr. Deb Ford-Executive Director, for the tireless hours you all spend on behalf of CSCA making our organization the strength that it is today. I look forward to joining you all in Minneapolis as we "Translate" what we do in the communication discipline to the public at large. I know Dr. Kristina Scharp is busy putting together several exciting ways to advance next year's conference theme.

I want to also extend my appreciation to all of you, the membership of the association. The range of incredible sessions related to this year's conference theme was so inspiring to me. We had 765 members registered for the annual conference, which is remarkable given the way funding and financial issues are currently impacting institutions of higher education across the country. This is the most people we have had register for a CSCA convention since 2019. Thank you for your commitment to CSCA - it will always be home to me and I know several of you feel the same way. It was my honor to plan our conference and to now to serve as your president.

As you work on your submissions for our next annual CSCA convention in Minneapolis, I encourage you to take some time to look at Dr. Kristina Scharp's call in this newsletter and think about the ways you can translate the important work you do to different audiences. The world has never needed our assistance more in being skilled, empathic, and effective communicators and citizens of the world. May the summer bring you the rest and recharge needed to continue changing the lives of people you come into contact with through your passion, expertise, and compassion. Be well and please be in contact if I can assist you in any way.

# And the Winners are...

## 2025 CSCA AWARD WINNERS

**J. Jeffery Auer Award:** Emmanuel Mylo Dadzie (North Dakota State University), Beatrice Quarm (Michigan Technological University)

**Melissa Beall Award:** Caroline Waldbuesser (University of Missouri), Timothy Berkey (University of Notre Dame), Julie A. Borkin (Taylor University), Isaiah DeMarco, (University of Central Florida), Grace Normand (Taylor University), and Abigail Olajire (University of Missouri)

**Samuel L. Becker Award:** Hadassah Ward (University of Colorado Boulder)

**Dawn O. Braithwaite Award for Qualitative Research:** James Robinson and Colter Ray (University of Tampa)

**Nancy Burrell Award:** Jinwen Yue (University of Missouri)

**Carolyn Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Fellow:** Eddah M. Mutua (St. Cloud State University)  
Nancy Burrell Award: Jinwen Yue (University of Missouri)

**James W. Cheseboro Award for Scholarly Distinction in Sexuality Research:** Stephanie L. Young (University of Southern Indiana)

**ComBotLabs Award:** Kyle R. Vareberg (Northeastern State University), David Westerman (North Dakota State University), and Stephanie Kelly (North Carolina A&T State University)

**Communication Studies Article of the Year Award:** Toward an African Critical Orientation: Kundai Chirindo (Lewis & Clark College) and Eddah M. Mutua (St. Cloud State University)

**Pamela J. Cooper Award:** *Ph.D.:* Debipreeta Rahut (Bowling Green State University),  
*M.A.:* Monalisa Lamptey (Southern Illinois University Carbondale)

**Diamond Anniversary Award:** Brian Richardson (University of North Texas), Joseph McGlynn (University of North Texas), and Jacinta Tran (University of Texas at Austin)

**Federation Prize:** Muhammad Ehab Rasul (University of California, Davis), Hee Jung Cho (Michigan State University), Moonson Jeon (Michigan State University), and CJ Calabrese (Clemson University)

**Founders Award:** Edikan Nkanta (Illinois State University)

**Gustav Friedrich Award:** Nicholas B. Lacy (Purdue University)

**Em Griffin Award:** Erin Ruppel, Xiola Schneiderman, and Sarra Ben Slama (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

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# And the Winners are...

## 2025 CSCA AWARD WINNERS

**Inclusive Scholarship Award:** Kathleen S. Valde and Mary Lynn Miller Henningsen (Northern Illinois University)

**Journal of Communication Pedagogy Article of the Year Award:** Nicholas B. Lacy (Purdue University), Yea-Wen Chen (San Diego State University), and Damariyé L. Smith (San Diego State University) "*Just Holding that Space*": Using Culturally Relevant Pedagogy to Create Counterspaces for Black College Students in AANAPISI/HSI Classrooms

**Key Award for Community Engagement and Applied Communication Scholarship:** Karla M. Hunter (South Dakota State University)

**Lambda Pi Eta Top Paper Award:** Jake Weber (Wabash College)

**Jimmie Manning Award:** Dennis Ekwemnachukwu Okeke (University of Colorado Boulder), Anthony Okeke (Nnamdi Azikiwe University), Emmanuel Appiah (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), and Ousman Mbaye (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

**Dan Millar Award:** Janet Laadi Anani (Illinois State University)

### **Outstanding State Journal and Manuscript Awards:**

*Journal of the Communication, Speech & Theatre Association of North Dakota* (Editor: Kimberly M. Weismann, Bismarck State College).

Mary Beth Deline (Illinois State University), Laura Rickard (University of Maine), Jared V. Worwood (University of South Florida), Pei Geng (University of New Hampshire) and Elisabeth Reed (Illinois State University) *Environmental Information Avoidance Motives on a US Campus*

**Past Officers Debut Paper Award:** Azmat Khan (Ohio University)

**President's UHRC Top Paper Award:** Jonathen Hart (Ferris State University)

**Judy C. Pearson and Paul E. Nelson Outstanding New Teacher Award:** Sydney O'Shay (Utah State University)

**Paul D. Skalski Award:** Emmanuel O. Odunfa (University of Oklahoma)

**Judith S. Trent Award for Early Career Excellence in Political Communication:** Robert Hinck, Air University

**Warren Mentorship Award:** Sarah S. LeBlanc (Purdue University Fort Wayne)



# First Vice President

KRISTINA SCHARP  
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

## CSCA 2026 Call for Submissions: Translate!

You are invited to submit competitive papers, panel discussions, and performance sessions for our 95th Annual Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Members are encouraged to reflect on the theme of Translate!

CSCA members make a difference from changing the lives of students to changing the world through public policy. Our teaching, research, and/or service have the potential to enlighten and foster change when we generate knowledge and share it with others. Yet, unlike other disciplines with clinical arms or systematic paths to the public, communication teacher/scholars might fail to reach this potential, despite having some of the most important and timely information. Thus, this conference theme is a call to consider how we can communicate what we know to people outside of the academy walls.

Most often, the academy functions to reward those who disseminate knowledge through scholarly publication. In this system, what we know can be, at worst, locked behind a journal paywall and, at best, trickled to the public via those students who (can afford to) attend our classes. Albeit very important, journals also often prioritize theory advancement, at the expense of other types of knowledge contributions. Yet, some communication scholars have begun to innovate ways to reach extended audiences and communicate what they know about communication.

In embracing the theme of Translate!, we consider how our research and teaching can make a meaningful difference outside of the academy. Is there space in our writing, teaching, and thinking that promotes engagement with others? Can we imagine innovative ways to share what we know to the public in ways our institutions recognize? How might our research improve when others have access to it and how might other people's lives improve if they had access to our research? How could our students participate in sharing knowledge with others? Who can we partner with to help us put theory into practice? And – importantly, what kinds of ethical considerations must we take into account when we provide recommendations? These are just some questions we might have the opportunity to engage with as we imagine ways to share our expertise with others.

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With these guiding questions in mind, this conference theme encourages members to make connections with instructors, scholars, the communication literature, community members, public policy makers, and practitioners examining related issues of interest in different ways. Translating what we know to the public might highlight community engaged research, interdisciplinary collaborations, or innovative strategies that help everyday people learn practical ways to address their most pressing issues.

I encourage each one of us to use the sessions of this conference to consider how we might create positive change. Seek out opportunities to<sup>1</sup> collaborate not just with other communication scholar/teachers but with people from K-12 schools, members of the private sector, health institutions or practitioners, community members, or even other communication professionals. During the conference, also consider attending an interest group or caucus that you ordinarily would not attend. Translate your theoretical and methodological expertise to encourage innovative thinking and new approaches to engaging in research and teaching.

Faculty, students, independent scholars, and community members are encouraged to submit and attend the convention. Institutional and community partnerships are particularly welcome.

Submissions inclusive of all methodological perspectives in the communication discipline are expected and embraced.

Look for specific calls and submission information from each of the CSCA Interest Groups, Caucuses, and Sections.

Questions about the general call or the 2026 conference:

- Contact Kristina M. Scharp, 2026 primary program planner: [kristina.scharp@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.scharp@gmail.com)
- **Deadline for Submissions: October 10, 2025, 11:59 pm CDT**

<sup>1</sup> All conference costs are paid by attendees, regardless of their status as members of the public or private sector.

## Hotel Information



Blue hour view of the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis  
Photo courtesy of <https://www.hyatt.com>

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

2026 Room Rates  
\$159/night plus 14.025% in taxes

Hotel reservation link available  
January 2026





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## Executive Director & Staff



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