

NCA 2019 Year in Review



IF YOU ARE A PART OF THE COMMUNICATION DISCIPLINE, membership in the National Communication Association is an indispensable part of your professional life. NCA is the preeminent scholarly society devoted to the study and teaching of Communication. Members of NCA find community in the more than 60 interest groups that connect members with other scholars who share similar research, professional, or institutional interests. NCA's website offers extensive teaching and learning resources, data about the discipline, and research and publishing resources aimed at supporting members with their scholarly and pedagogical pursuits. In our 105th year, NCA and its more than 6,500 members are making a difference within the Communication discipline, throughout the academy, in our communities, and beyond. Here are a few highlights from 2019.

ADVANCING THE COMMUNICATION DISCIPLINE

- Sponsored two NCA Public Programs about environmental communication, one focusing on how communication can help solve and/or contribute to environmental issues caused by energy creation and consumption, held at West Virginia University, and the other exploring the role communication plays in educating, informing, and persuading publics about climate change, held at the University of Montana
- Co-hosted the U.S.-China Communication Colloquium on "Communication Innovation, New Media, and Digital Journalism" with Shenzhen University (SZU) of China
- Awarded nearly \$84,000 in grants that will support member projects and programs throughout 2019
- Oversaw the publication of 337 articles authored by more than 500 scholars in NCA's 11 scholarly journals
- Garnered media coverage in hundreds of national and local outlets featuring Communication scholars' research and publications, covering current issues such as the Democratic primary campaigns, presidential rhetoric, and immigration
- Released five videos as part of NCA's new Concepts in Communication video series, and developed and shared a video about NCA itself
- Selected the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Department of Communication as the host of the new NCA Center for Communication, Community Collaboration, and Change (CCCC), a project aimed at facilitating partnerships with community-based organizations that create sustainable change for underrepresented and/or vulnerable communities





SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS AND TEACHERS

- Provided nearly \$100,000 to support a series of professional development programs and conferences, including the Doctoral Honors Seminar, the Institute for Faculty Development, and the NCA Chairs' Summer Institute
- Issued monthly *C-Briefs* to provide scholars with relevant data about the discipline
- Published six E-tools essays by and for faculty, featuring new media and technologies for the classroom, and added a section for online activities to the Teaching and Learning section of the NCA website
- Through the 2019 NCA Awards program, recognized 30 scholars and teachers in 23 categories for outstanding scholarship, teaching, and professional service
- Published a special November issue of *Spectra*, "The State of the Communication Discipline," which presented data on five aspects of the Communication discipline: Departments and Programs, Faculty in Communication, Undergraduate Students in Communication, Graduate Students in Communication, and Communication Scholarship



ADVOCATING FOR ACTION

- In January, NCA co-signed a letter issued by the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) and endorsed by more than 125 organizations expressing serious concerns about the impact of the federal government shutdown on America’s research enterprise
- In March, NCA issued an Action Alert asking NCA members to write to Members of Congress, in partnership with the National Humanities Alliance, to encourage continued support for the National Endowment for the Humanities and all other federal humanities programs
- In March, NCA joined 31 professional societies in voicing opposition to Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy’s \$134 million in proposed funding cuts for higher education
- In March and April, NCA National Office staff met with congressional staff to discuss the importance of funding humanities and social science research on behalf of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) and the National Humanities Alliance (NHA)
- In April, NCA participated in the Coalition for National Science Funding’s (CNSF) 25th Annual Exhibition and Reception in Washington, DC.
- In July, with 26 other professional societies, NCA cosigned a letter to the Turkish Constitutional Courts expressing support for the right of scholars and academics to sign the Academics for Peace Petition
- In September, NCA joined 17 professional societies in co-signing a letter to the Department of Education from the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) that emphasized the importance of academic programs that “enable students to attain the depth and breadth of knowledge they need to become regional experts” and affirmed the importance of Title VI centers, which provide regional experts and lead the way in regional studies nationally and globally
- In September, NCA joined 15 learned societies in endorsing an American Sociological Association statement encouraging institutions to use evidence-based best practices for collecting student feedback, including using student evaluations as part of a holistic assessment that includes peer observations and other forms of evaluation



Dear NCA Member:

Just last week, NCA members from across the nation gathered with NCA staff members and hundreds of other humanities advocates on Capitol Hill. We were working to convince Congress that increased funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Department of Education’s Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The proposal also includes a significant funding decrease for the National Archives.

On Monday, we learned that, for the third year in a row, the Trump administration’s 2020 budget proposal is calling for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Department of Education’s Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The proposal also includes a significant funding decrease for the National Archives.

In partnership and solidarity with the entire humanities community, and led by our partners at the National Humanities Alliance, NCA is again asking for you to reach out to your members of Congress to ask them to sign on to Dear Colleague letters circulating in Congress; these letters call for continued support for vital humanities programs.

[Take action here for the NEH](#)

[Take action here for Title VI & Fulbright-Hays](#)

Under constant assault, the humanities, now more than ever, need our support and advocacy. Please consider contacting your member of Congress today!

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A CLOSER LOOK AT COMMUNICATION FOR SURVIVAL

At the NCA 105th Annual Convention in Baltimore, themed “Communication for Survival,” some 4,500 scholars gathered to exchange ideas and present research. The Opening Session, “Race Relations in Charm City: Communicating Social Justice,” explored race relations both in Baltimore and throughout the nation and examined ways in which social justice work seeks to improve societal challenges associated with race, including poverty, violence, wealth attainment, and food access. The interdisciplinary panel included scholars and Baltimore community leaders whose work is dedicated to a greater understanding of the issues of race, injustice, and social justice. Attendees also heard from Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecturer Lisa A. Flores about the connections between Communication for Survival and national discourses about race. Finally, in his NCA Presidential Address, Star Muir addressed challenges of this political moment and offered suggestions for how to ease these challenges through education. Muir called on scholars and teachers to practice mindfulness in the classroom and concluded with a discussion of the importance of speech and debate activities at all educational levels.



From the halls of their institutions, to their local communities, cities across the nation, and regions around the world, Communication scholars are playing an important role in educating, informing, and shaping society.