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Welcome from the First Vice President

I look forward to welcoming you in Seattle for the NCA 107th Annual Convention! In accordance with this year's theme of "Renewal and Transformation," together we will explore how we can, and must, engage in the essential tasks of restoration and change.

We have an outstanding program of panels, papers, and special sessions at this convention. In particular, please note these special program highlights:

The Renewal and Transformation Series features four special programs that examine four dimensions of our current historical moment which is fraught with anxiety but also rich with possibilities: [Democracy](#), [Discipline](#), [Disruption](#), and [Dissent](#).

The newly formed Indigenous Caucus will be hosting an opening ceremony Thursday - Sunday mornings at 7:00 a.m., which will feature a smudge ceremony and encourage all attendees to set their intentions for the convention. The ceremony will take place outdoors in Ellis Plaza, located off the 4th Level of the Washington State Convention Center near the atrium. All attendees are welcome to attend; you do not need to be a member of the caucus to participate.

The [NCA Opening Session](#), "Honoring Past and Present: Communication, Culture, and Change in Native Seattle," sponsored by the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society, will be held on Thursday, November 18, 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. The session will highlight the role communication plays in Native communities.

We also are featuring several programs that interrogate discrimination, marginalization, and violence, including an [Anti-Asian American Racism and Bias Bystander Training Workshop](#) and programs examining [Anti-Asian American discrimination](#) and the [legacy of coloniality](#).

The [Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture](#), sponsored by Pearson, will be delivered by Tina M. Harris, Louisiana State University, on Friday, November 19, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. The presentation, "Intentional Transformation in the Midst of Change," will challenge us to be change agents who advocate moving from theory to practice.

Finally, at the [NCA Presidential Address and Awards Ceremony](#), sponsored by Routledge, Taylor & Francis, our annual awards presentation will follow NCA President David T. McMahan, Missouri Western State University, who will address "Assessing and Advancing the Discipline," on Saturday, November 20 at 5:00 p.m. Please be sure to attend to celebrate your colleagues for their outstanding research, teaching, and service.

We are living during extraordinary times. We all have faced numerous public and personal crises and their aftermaths that have challenged us as Communication scholars, teachers, and professionals to consider why our contributions matter more than ever before. As we share in crucial conversations about how to renew our priorities, reinvigorate our hopes, and restore the fabric of public discourse, we also will engage in dialogues that envision powerful transformations in the communities in which we work, live, and serve.

--[Roseann M. Mandziuk](#), NCA First Vice President, Texas State University

Renewal and Transformation Series

There will be four special sessions that comprise the “Renewal and Transformation” series. These sessions will be [live streamed](#) for those who are not able to attend in person.

[Democracy](#) spotlights a multimedia project on rhetoric, democracy, and white supremacist violence, including a screening of the documentary film “Same as it Ever Was: Democracy, Violence, and White Supremacy,” which features conversations with rhetorical scholars with very different areas of expertise on the same objects, texts, and events.

[Discipline](#) will bring together nine scholars who have guided their careers toward practical, activist-oriented, and/or difference-making scholarship. They will explore what makes our discipline unique, why it has the potential both to solve problems and create visions for optimistic futures, and will share some of their unique experiences as researchers and teachers in the discipline.

[Disruption](#) explores what the “dis” in “disruption” means when analyzing the continuing effects of the pandemic on college/university teaching and learning. In this Spotlight session, four pairs of teachers and students of diverse backgrounds come together to discuss the pros and cons of the disruption we all experience.

[Dissent](#) will focus on the protests and dissent that happened in Seattle during the summer of 2020. They will engage with activists who were on the ground and get their perspectives on the direct actions that took place as they stood in opposition to the systemic racism, police brutality and violence directed at people of color in their city and beyond.

NCA Annual Convention and COVID-19

If you are attending the convention in person, and have not already done so, please [upload](#) your COVID-19 vaccine verification information prior to arriving in Seattle for an expedited check-in process. Those attending unvaccinated should expect to take multiple rapid tests while on-site.

All attendees must go through the verification process on-site prior to attending any sessions. Verification will be done in 6C of the Washington State Convention Center:

- Wednesday 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Once verified, attendees will be given a bracelet to wear for the duration of the convention. In addition to the bracelet, attendees must wear their convention badge at all times when in the convention sites. If you are seen without your badge, you may be asked to produce it, display your verification bracelet, or leave the session. Additional information is available on our [COVID-19](#) webpage.

Visit the Exhibit Hall

Visit the Exhibit Hall and speak with publishers, educational product vendors, and other Communication-related associations. For a full list of exhibitors and booth assignments, visit the [Exhibitor](#) section on NCA Convention Central. The Exhibit Hall will be located in Ballroom 6E of the Washington State Convention Center (please note this is a change in location from the on-site print program) and will be open as follows:

- Thursday, November 18: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Friday, November 19: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, November 20: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
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Graduate School Open House and Career Center

The complete list of schools participating in the Graduate School Open House is now available. The Graduate School Open House will take place on Thursday, November 18, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., in Ballroom 6E of the Washington State Convention Center (please note this is a change in location from the on-site print program).

The complete Job Fair position list is also available. The Job Fair will be held in conjunction with the NCA Career Center on Friday, November 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Ballroom 6E of the Washington State Convention Center (please note this is a change in location from the on-site print program). Prepare your [elevator pitch](#) and bring your CV and/or business cards to hand out to representatives, as extended conversations may not be possible. In addition to the Job Fair, the NCA Career Center will also feature two dynamic PrepTalks, professional headshots, and CV Consulting.

Both events are open to all registered attendees. [Click here for more info.](#)

Registration Desk

The NCA registration area, located in Ballroom 6C of the Washington State Convention Center (please note, this is a change in location from the on-site print program), will be open as follows:

- Wednesday, November 17: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 18: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 19: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 20: 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The registration area will not be open on Sunday, November 21.

Prior to entering registration and receiving your materials, all attendees will go through the on-site vaccine verification process, also located in Ballroom 6C. All registered attendees are strongly encouraged to [upload the required information](#) prior to the convention to facilitate a quick and easy process on-site.

NCA Welcome Reception

All attendees are invited to attend the [NCA Welcome Reception](#), to be held Thursday, November 18, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Ballroom 6A of the Washington State Convention Center. The Welcome Reception is a great place to meet and reconnect with friends and colleagues.

Convention Accessibility

NCA strives to make the Annual Convention accessible on-site for all attendees. Below are useful resources for making your convention experience a success. This information is also accessible on the [Convention Accessibility](#) webpage.

Accessibility assistance volunteers will be stationed in the lobby of both properties to assist attendees traveling between the two sites.

Copies of the convention program in enlarged print are available upon request at the NCA Registration Desk.

A link to information on renting mobility assistance equipment such as scooters or wheelchairs can be found on the [Hotel and Travel Information](#) webpage. A wheelchair/scooter charging station will be located in the front of the Exhibit Hall, along with charging stations for most mobile devices.

An Area of Evacuation Assistance will be established and clearly marked on each floor of the Convention Center and Sheraton. If you need assistance locating this area, please contact an NCA staff member or hotel employee. In the

event of a hotel evacuation during convention meeting hours, hotel staff will check this area for attendees who require assistance. In the event of a hotel evacuation outside of convention hours, attendees who require assistance are instructed to remain in their guest rooms. Please be sure to indicate that you may need assistance upon check-in.

Should you encounter any problems during the convention or need any additional information, please contact a member of the NCA National Office staff at the registration desk, or email convention@natcom.org.

Navigating the Convention Space

Please review the following information to help you navigate your way around the Sheraton and Washington State Convention Center. NCA registration, general sessions, and the Exhibit Hall will be located in the Convention Center.

Navigating the Convention Center

When entering the convention center using the Pike Street entrance, please be sure to follow directional signage to the primary center escalators. Elevators are located in the Union Street lobby. When using the elevators to access the 6th Level, please note that you will need to exit on the 4th Level, enter the atrium, and use the elevators located within the atrium to access the 6th Level. Please see the [floor plans](#) for additional information. The convention center and Sheraton are not connected via an enclosed walkway.

Navigating the Sheraton

The Sheraton has two towers (Union Street and Pike Street). The towers are connected on the lobby, 2nd, and 3rd floors. Beginning on the 4th floor they are separate. NCA has sessions on the 4th floor Union Street tower and 35th floor Pike Street tower. Please be sure to follow directional signage to access elevators to these floors.

The Pike Street tower has two separate elevators bays. One accesses the lobby through the 20th floor, the other accesses the lobby, 2nd, and 20th through 35th floors. If you have found you have entered the incorrect set of elevators to get back to your hotel room, you can exit on the 20th floor and cross to the other bay, rather than returning to the lobby. Please see the [floor plans](#) for additional information.

If you have any questions about the convention hotels, please contact the [Convention Team](#).

City Safety Resources

We encourage all convention attendees to follow the following safety tips when traveling around Seattle:

- Use the buddy system by walking in groups or with a friend or colleague, especially at night.
- Stick to well-lit and well-traveled streets and be aware of your surroundings. Keep your eyes up and not on your phone.
- Communicate your plans or itinerary to others.
- Be conscious of your belongings when exploring the city and attending sessions. Do not leave your belongings unattended, even in NCA sessions.
- Remove your Annual Convention badges and leave your convention tote bags back at the hotel while exploring the city.

Please visit the [Hotel and Travel](#) webpage for additional [health and safety resources](#).

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