

# **Candidates for Nominating Committee (At-Large Members)**

*Four will be elected to serve a one-year term beginning in September 2018*

- Kristen Everhart
- Nicole Files-Thompson
- Tracey Holden
- José Ángel Maldonado
- Tiara Na'puti
- John Nash
- Melba Vélez Ortiz
- Erin Watley

### **Kristen Everhart, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

As a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I have the pleasure of working with colleagues from a diversity of methodological and epistemological perspectives. My research explores the intersections of interpersonal, family, and health communication using mixed-methods to examine communication related to a number of different health contexts. More specifically, I focus on understanding how people's communication in family and relational contexts shape or reflect their decision-making and sense-making processes, particularly in situations of identity or health crisis.



I wish to serve on the NCA Nominating Committee because I believe it is important for our NCA membership body to maintain representation from graduate students, established scholars, and practitioners. My service to the discipline started as a graduate student in 2013 and has included serving as secretary to the Interpersonal Division of Western States Communication Association for two years and as a paper reviewer for multiple interest groups including Communication Theory and Research, Interpersonal Communication, and Health Communication. I have also served as a paper reviewer for the Graduate Student Caucus of Central States Communication Association and chaired panels at both the Western and Central States Conferences. It would be my sincere pleasure to serve the NCA community and I look forward to the opportunity to play a more active role in our National Association. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Nicole Files-Thompson, Lincoln University (N/A)**

#### **Tracey Holden, University of Delaware**

I am honored to be nominated to the Nominating Committee! Over the years, I have taught at nearly every variety of college, and in every region of the United States. I have held a tenure-track position, been a 'freeway flyer', and an adjunct faculty member. I've been active in multiple divisions within NCA and learned from amazing colleagues across our discipline. Those experiences have been invaluable, and have also given me the opportunity to learn from what we've done well and not so well with our national organization. If elected to the Nominations Committee, I want to find leaders who want to build on all that NCA offers, expand all the opportunities it has now, and increase awareness of NCA's benefits to everyone in academia. Like every professional organization, we need to do more for our members while keeping costs down, and we need leaders who believe NCA can do more than it does.



## **José Ángel Maldonado, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

José Ángel Maldonado is Assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He received his PhD from the University of Utah and his MA and BA from the University of Texas at El Paso. His research areas are rhetorical and communication theory, critical and cultural studies, Mexican and Latin American studies, and transnational indigeneity. He has been a member of NCA since 2014, in the Latina/Latino Communication Studies, Critical and Cultural Studies, International and Intercultural Communication, and Rhetorical and Communication Theory Divisions.



José Ángel is an elected officer in the Latino/Latina Communication Studies Division and La Raza Caucus (2018-2022). Additionally, he participates in Western States Communication Association's Annual Convention as well as the Alta Argumentation Conference. His research has appeared in *Southern Communication Journal* and in *Javnost-The Public: Journal of the European Institute for Communication and Culture*. José Ángel is currently working on a book project about feminicidios in his home state of Chihuahua, Mexico.

## **Tiara Na'puti, University of Colorado, Boulder**

Håfa Adai (Greetings) members of NCA, thank you for considering me as a candidate for our association's nominating committee. It would be an honor to serve you all in this capacity. I am deeply committed to amplifying perspectives of otherwise marginalized populations within our organization. I take seriously the task of identifying qualified and diverse candidates to lead NCA, without overburdening service obligations for our already extended members with service invitations. My commitment means being proactive and responsible to practicing our organization's mission that "serves the scholars, teachers, and practitioners...to improve the quality of human life and relationships" of its members.



Most recently, I served as the Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division. I have been a member of NCA for the past decade, and have been actively involved as a reviewer, respondent, and/or serving in other capacities across many divisions including: American Studies Division; Asian/Pacific American Communication Studies Division; Critical and Cultural Studies Division & CCS Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee; and, the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division.

At the University of Colorado Boulder, I am currently an Assistant Professor of Communication and core faculty with the Center for Native American & Indigenous Studies. I earned my PhD in Communication Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. My community engaged work focuses on social movements and indigenous cultural discourses from Guåhan (Guam) and throughout Oceania. Generally, my research in communication spans Rhetoric, Indigenous Studies, and Critical Cultural Studies. Understandably, this is a very brief summary of my commitments, NCA experience, and educational background. But I hope it offers a sense of my qualifications for the position of At-Large Member. Si Yu'os Ma'åse (Thank you) for your consideration and support.

### **John Nash, Moraine Valley Community College**

I am honored to be a candidate for the 2018 Nominating Committee. I am currently a Professor of Communications and the Director of Forensics at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, IL. I have been regularly attending NCA for over 20 years. I have presented panels, papers and Short Courses throughout those years. I have served as a GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching Speech) evaluator for NCA and I have also served on the Outstanding Community College Educator committee for the past 3 years. I am a member of the Basic Course Division, the Community College Division and the Argumentation and Forensics Division as well as a member of the Caucus on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. I feel that because I am an Executive Board Member for the Phi Rho Pi Community College Speech and Debate organization, I would bring another level of recruitment to this committee. I have a wide range of connections within the community college and Phi Rho Pi / Speech and Debate community. At my current school, I have won the title of Master Teacher twice, I am a certified Safe Zone trainer for our college and I am an active member of our Learning Academy. I feel that I have the ethics and commitment to be a valuable part of this committee. Thank you for your consideration.



### **Melba Vélez Ortiz, Grand Valley State University**

I have been a member and actively involved with NCA for over 15 years and have served as Secretary/Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, and Chair of the Communication Ethics Division as well as National Student Representative for the Environmental Communication Division. I have intellectual and personal commitments to dialogue and the respect and valuation of all persons. I believe I can deepen my service to NCA by engaging in the process of identifying future leadership of our organization that prioritize inclusion and collaboration. I want to put energy into helping our organization



continue to diversify and empower marginalized voices by endeavoring to select candidates who are sensitive and mindful of the power our organization has to support those voices and give them a platform to increase their contribution and visibility in the future of NCA.

Some years ago, I was told of a very significance difference between diversity and inclusion that I'd like to share with you as I conclude this letter: "Diversity is being invited to the dance; inclusion is being asked to dance." This is my personal approach to matters of inclusion. While increasing the presence of members from underrepresented communities is valuable on its own as an end, an even better goal is to both bring them to the dance and ask them to dance; ask them to contribute, ask them to collaborate, ask them to bring their concerns to the table. I see the Nominating Committee as the organizational body of NCA that routinely asks party attendees to the dance floor, and for that reason, I am excited for my nomination to be considered.

Also, my guide dog Chad is pretty amazing.

### **Erin Watley, McDaniel College**

Erin Watley (Ph.D., University of New Mexico) is an assistant professor in the Communication and Cinema department at McDaniel College, where her teaching and research interests are centered on intercultural communication, media critique, intergroup dialogue, and qualitative research methods.



I am honored to be nominated to serve on NCA's Nominating Committee. As a member of NCA since 2011, I have moved from graduate student to assistant professor and this organization has facilitated significant connections for me across a range of interest areas, ideologies, and geographic locations. When recruiting, and reviewing nominees, all Nominating Committee members have to have a solid grasp on how to reach potential nominees and be able to determine the traits and experiences that make someone a good candidate for a position. I have those skills to contribute and I look forward to collaborating with others to identify and advocate for candidates who are qualified, diverse, and will work to grow NCA in dynamic fashion.