

NCA 111th Annual Convention
Call for Participation
“Communicate to Elevate”
November 20-23, 2025
Denver, Colorado

Please plan to join me in beautiful Denver, Colorado, for the NCA 111th annual convention at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center! The convention theme is “Communicate to Elevate,” which I believe captures the spirit of what I hope will be an amazing conference and time to gather and break intellectual and communal bread together. When I was tasked with creating the conference theme, I wanted a phrase that was not only catchy but would also inspire us all to continue with the important work we do in the discipline whether it is teaching, research, and/or service. Communicate to Elevate is metaphorical and celebratory, tipping a hat to the Mile High City that will be our host city. By participating in the conference, we are showing a commitment to advancing the discipline and our craft in the way most fitting for us and for different reasons. One truth that brings us together is the value we see in communication in its various forms.

Communicating to Elevate has two specific meanings to inspire us as we prepare for our time in Denver. First, it speaks to what I believe is our duty as members of this intellectual community to strive to help others realize their potential as we work towards our own. In other words, we are “lifting as we climb,” ensuring that we exchange wisdom and knowledge with others as we navigate the difficult terrains that we oftentimes face. Continuing to do so through trials and tribulations, but especially when we are triumphant over them. We actively seek opportunities to help others regardless of how successful we become. We mentor, advise, and support because it is a way to give back what was given to us or what we wished we had received. As we ascend to higher heights, we commit to bringing others along and creating spaces where others can thrive as well. Let’s put this into practice at the conference and submit papers, panels, and more that help us continue striving towards being the inclusive, transparent and support organization we are constantly working to be.

Second, Communicating to Elevate was created to conjure up a spirit of excitement about and innovation around the scholarship we are all committed to creating. We are taking everything we do to the next level, and we cannot do it alone. We must come together as a beautifully complex and diverse community whose differences are celebrated, communicated, appreciated, and respected. This also means that we are actively prioritizing communication and in its many forms, regardless of (or because of?) the theoretical, methodological, pedagogical, or practical underpinnings guiding our work. Communicating to Elevate requires that we work towards growth and continually affirm our evolution and existence as a field. The conference is a sustained opportunity to amplify the many voices, realities, and experiences that inform all that we do and who we are. Communication is fundamental to every aspect of life, and without our scholarship or instruction, where would the field be? Where is the field going? Together, we can play an essential role in determining our future, one filled with hope and promise.

The logo for the conference captures the nuances of what communication means to us all and hopefully elicits positivity on sight. The digital bouquet of balloons represents royalty (purple), hope (orange), and awareness (pink), qualities we all possess as a robust discipline that is constantly changing and growing. Moreover, these are qualities that NCA aspires to reflect in our members who are why we even exist as a collective. We are a beautiful community in terms of our race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender, ideologies, politics, and spirituality as well as a multitude of theoretical, methodological, and pedagogical orientations. These qualities are what make us an Association of which we all can be proud. We are continuing to evolve into an organization committed to Communicating to Elevate, becoming better, stronger, and kinder through growth and change.

I consider it an honor and pleasure to be a part of the leadership team of NCA and helping us go to the next level in Denver. I have been an active member of NCA for 34 years, which has been my entire career, and I remain excited and hopeful about our future. Denver will surely heighten our excitement about all that is yet to come. We can come together as a community to celebrate who we are. I thank each of you, along with the NCA office staff and leadership, in advance for making 2025 yet another successful conference as we commit to Communicate to Elevate.

Tina M. Harris, Ph. D.
NCA 2nd Vice President