



NATIONAL
COMMUNICATION
ASSOCIATION

Affiliation Applications 2024

Effective for 2025 – 2029

NCA Executive Committee Meeting

October 9, 2024

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Affiliation Application Check List

Rationale: Describe how your organization and NCA will mutually benefit by establishing a partnership. Provide a rationale of organizational relevance and significance to the Communication discipline (no more than 250 words).

Alignment of Strategic Priorities: Expand on how your organization aligns with NCA's strategic priorities. Refer to the current NCA Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (no more than 250 words).

Supporting Documents:

1. Articles of Incorporation (if organization is a new NCA Affiliate).
2. Mission Statement.
3. List of Names of Current Officers and Board Members.
4. Governing Documents (Bylaws).

Copy of the [2025-2029 Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#)

American Debate Association

Rationale

NCA and the American Debate Association have had a long and fruitful historical relationship that we wish to see continue. Debate and argumentation are central themes in communication studies. NCA and the ADA mutually benefit from the partnership, which ensures continued strong connections between the communication studies field and the academic competitive debate world. Debate is often the gateway that introduces debaters to communication studies. The field continues to produce professional debate coaches at universities around the world. Communication studies students, graduate students and professors alike frequently draw from their experiences and research methods as competitive debaters. It behooves both NCA and the ADA to remain affiliated.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

The American Debate Association aligns with each of the NCA's strategic priorities. The ADA supports excellence in scholarship, pedagogy and service focused on academic debate, which is at the heart of the communication studies field.

The ADA promotes Communication's significance in challenging existing structures and fostering meaningful change by training college debaters for their future careers as thought leaders in many top fields and industries, and by honing students' critical thinking skills. The ADA advocates for institutional and public policies that reflect respect for debate and dialogue. The ADA's public outreach efforts also enhance awareness about the value of communication studies more broadly.

The ADA promotes and advocates for inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access within competitive debate through its advocacy for increased access to collegiate debate across populations.

The ADA helps to support reflexive governance and administrative practices and informed decision-making by promoting a debate-informed approach to questions of governance and administration.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Verbatim \(natcom.org\)](http://natcom.org)
2. Website: [American Debate Association](http://AmericanDebateAssociation.org)

American Forensic Association

Rationale

The American Forensic Association represents speech and debate programs across the nation, many of whom are housed in communication, communication studies or rhetorical studies programs. The AFA has a long historic partnership with the NCA, having been an affiliate member for decades. The AFA not only promotes speech and debate education by sponsoring the National Debate Tournament and National Speech Tournament but also promotes scholarship through Argumentation & Advocacy: The Journal of the American Forensic Association, a highly respected refereed journal within the discipline. Additionally, the AFA and then-SCA agreed in 1979 to establish the ALTA conference, which has been an important element in encouraging the development of research in argumentation and advocacy. While the ALTA conference has been on hold post-pandemic, it is the hope of the AFA that it can be renewed at some point soon. Finally, the partnership with NCA is important for the many Directors of

Forensics throughout the nation who are able to blend their scholarship with their stewardship of their programs at the National Conference.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

GOAL 1-CREATE CONDITIONS TO SUPPORT AND EMPOWER MEMBERS

The AFA aligns with this strategic priority by the publication of the Journal of the American Forensic Association and its historic co-sponsorship (with NCA) of the ALTA conference. Additionally, it promotes an avenue for Directors of Forensics and other speech and debate professionals to engage with NCA.

GOAL 2-PROMOTE COMMUNICATION'S VALUE

The AFA aligns with this strategic priority by its promotion of speech and debate activities. Perhaps no other component of the communication discipline is more committed to public scrutiny of existing public policies and institutional structures than the art of speech and debate. The students who are components of these programs, under the direction of communication professionals, become powerful advocates not only in their competitive years but also long after graduation.

GOAL 3-EMBRACE AND ENACT INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESS

The AFA aligns with this strategic priority by its creation and empowerment of DEI and accessibility programs at its two major events, the National Debate Tournament and the National Speech Tournament. In addition, many undergraduate students learn communicative tools in speech and debate with which to promote diversity, equity and inclusion on their campuses, and many become communication professionals themselves and advocate within their institution and broader institutions.

GOAL 4-CULTIVATE A THRIVING AND RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION

The AFA aligns with this strategic priority by maintaining a strong relationship with the NCA, and as noted above, will hopefully strengthen that through renewed co-sponsorship of the ALTA conference.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Our Credo – American Forensic Association \(natcom.org\)](https://natcom.org)
2. Website: [American Forensic Association](https://www.aforensic.org)

American Society for the History of Rhetoric

Rationale

The American Society for the History of Rhetoric is the largest scholarly organization devoted to the study of rhetoric in its historical context within the United States. With about 180 consistent members, the Society organizes and sponsors Symposia, hosts professional development events, networks with junior scholars, and recognizes outstanding scholarship in the areas of the history and theory of rhetoric. ASHR benefits greatly from its presence at NCA, which provides a consistent meeting place for the Society's annual business meeting, a dedicated set of panel lots, and more. NCA benefits from ASHR's partnership because the Society provides opportunities for sharing scholarship and for professional growth for both junior and established scholars who are interested in rhetoric and communication's historical development.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

ASHR most closely aligns with NCA's first strategic priority, empowering members. ASHR has dedicated the last several years to prioritizing member networking and engagement, as well as providing more opportunities to recognize not just excellent scholarship, but also excellence in the areas of pedagogy and mentorship. ASHR has also been actively working toward similar goals as articulated in NCA's third strategic priority, which we have sought to do by expanding our field's definition of rhetorical/historical inquiry and supporting teaching outside of the traditional Western canon of rhetoric.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Constitution \(natcom.org\)](https://natcom.org)
2. Website: [American Society for the History of Rhetoric](https://www.asrhistorians.org)

Association for Business Communication

Rationale

The Association for Business Communication (ABC) is an international, interdisciplinary organization committed to advancing business communication research, education and practice. Its membership, like the field of business communication, is richly interdisciplinary, drawing members from such fields as management, marketing, English, speech communication, linguistics, information systems, to name only a few. Our membership also encompasses communication consultants and other business practitioners. We have a strong membership base in North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

ABC seeks to become the foremost authority in the field of business communication by promoting excellence in teaching, increasing knowledge within the discipline, enriching business communication classes to better prepare students, and improving the quality of communication in the workplace. Because we recognize the importance of globalization, the Association seeks to continue to expand its international membership as well as its international point of view. To reach all members, ABC incorporates many technologies for enhanced communication and provision of services most needed.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"ABC's goals closely align with the objectives outlined in NCA's Strategic Plan. Like NCA, ABC has a keen focus on supporting excellence in scholarship, teaching and service with, of course, a specific emphasis on business communication. This is manifested in a variety of delivery methods.

Attendees are offered a comprehensive selection of topics through panels, roundtables, workshops and presentations at our annual international and regional conferences. Our two refereed journals, International Journal of Business Communication and Business and Professional Communication Quarterly, feature manuscripts from authors around the world. ABC relies heavily on volunteers for leadership roles that include chairing our 20+ committees and special interest groups and serving on the Board of Directors.

ABC has had a Professional Code of Conduct since 2005. We just transitioned to a new website, that will include a specially designed, public-facing section for business communication practitioners to use in the workplace.

Discussions and decisions at all levels are evaluated through a DEI lens. Membership dues are income-based. The DEI Committee is very active and sponsors the popular "How Do You Teach DEI" sessions at our annual conferences, and member Award for Distinction in the Practice of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We offer virtual workshops and other presentations throughout the year to allow all to attend. Monthly Board of Directors meetings are held virtually, and financial support is available to members who attend our one in-person meeting. This year we are featuring a DEI-focused pre-conference Summit, Challenging Conversations: An Innovative Communication Framework.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Approved Updated ABC Bylaws - May 10, 2024 \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Association for Business Communication](#)

Association for Communication Administration

Rationale

Many of the top reasons people leave their jobs, according to researchers, are a result of poor communication. Things like poor leadership, insufficient recognition, and an unhealthy work environment are consistently listed as reasons people seek new employment. The Association for Communication Administration (ACA) works to improve communication and help administrators to be better at what they do so that we can recruit and retain high-quality faculty and staff in the field.

NCA will benefit through the membership and convention attendance by Association members. Additionally, NCA will benefit through the development of better leaders in the organization. ACA research highlights problematic administrative behaviors and communication and provides positive alternative behaviors and strategies for administrators and faculty to use. As the ACA works to improve departments, NCA will remain strong as a national organization.

The ACA will benefit by meeting at a prearranged time and place to discuss organizational issues. The ACA also benefits through the opportunity to present and discuss scholarship and research related to Communication Administration.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

The ACA meets Goal 1 of NCA's strategic plan through its support of academic administrators. The ACA provides resources to members and supports scholarship and research that examines leadership, administration, and practical issues of communication experienced by administrators. The ACA also helps create conditions that support and empower NCA members by working to improve administrative activity so that faculty can be more successful.

The ACA promotes communication's value (NCA goal 2) by highlighting the importance of communication as a part of administration, and by encouraging members of administration to become better communicators. We provide members with a space to present and discuss research, as well as publish in the Journal for the Association for Communication Administration (JACA).

The ACA supports NCA's goal 3 by increasing access to resources for all faculty, encouraging more members to consider administration as a possible option for their career. All the materials published in the JACA are open-access, downloadable, and printable, so there are no limits to who might be able to use these materials.

The ACA supports NCA's goal 4, to cultivate a thriving and responsive organization, by nurturing and supporting leaders in communication departments so that they, in turn, can nurture and support the members of their departments. Members can connect with other chairs and deans, allowing them to commiserate, as well as ask for – and provide—advice.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [ACA documents.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Association for Communication Administration](#)

Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine

Rationale

The Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine (ARSTM) and the National Communication Association (NCA) share a common goal of advancing the study and practice of communication to improve societal outcomes. A partnership between ARSTM and NCA amplifies both organizations' efforts by fostering a richer exchange of ideas and research at the intersection of rhetoric, science, technology, and medicine—areas of increasing importance in our complex, information-driven world.

ARSTM's focus on the rhetorical dimensions of scientific and technological discourse complements NCA's broader mission to advance communication scholarship and teaching. By integrating ARSTM's specialized insights into the rhetoric of science and technology, NCA members have an outlet for discipline-related issues, from public health communication to the ethics of emerging technologies. Conversely, ARSTM benefits from NCA's extensive network and resources, enhancing its ability to influence both academic and public discussions on critical issues. ARSTM co-runs its annual preconference with NCA's national convention.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"Supporting and Empowering Members (Goal 1): ARSTM's specialized focus on the rhetoric of science, technology, and medicine complements NCA's commitment to excellence in communication-related scholarship, pedagogy, and service. By partnering with ARSTM, NCA members gain access to niche expertise that enhances their own scholarship and teaching, thereby enriching the broader communication discipline.

Promoting Communication's Value (Goal 2): ARSTM's work emphasizes the critical role of rhetoric in scientific and technological discourses, aligning with NCA's objective to enhance public awareness of the discipline's value. ARSTM's focus on challenging and analyzing how scientific and medical knowledge is communicated directly supports NCA's goal of promoting communication's significance in fostering meaningful change and informing public policies.

Embracing and Enacting Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (Goal 3): ARSTM's commitment to analyzing how science and technology intersect with societal issues allows for a deeper exploration of how these areas can both perpetuate and challenge existing inequities. This aligns with NCA's strategic focus on promoting inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access within the field of communication and society at large.

Cultivating a Thriving and Responsive Organization (Goal 4): The collaborative potential between NCA and ARSTM fosters a more engaged and dynamic membership, which is crucial for NCA's objective to nurture an energetic, collaborative, and engaged organization. Additionally, ARSTM's insights contribute to informed decision-making and reflexive governance within NCA.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [NCA Affiliate Renewal Supporting Documents 8-19-24 \(N. Johnson\).pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine](#)

Central States Communication Association

Rationale

Central States Communication Association (CSCA) is an academic organization of communication professionals including college and university professors, students, and K-12 educators. CSCA was founded in 1931 to promote the communication discipline in educational, scholarly, and professional endeavors. The association, which consists of the 13 Midwestern states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, is governed by an Executive Committee and is legislated by its constitution and bylaws. CSCA has 27 Interest Groups, Caucuses, and Sections. The association hosts a yearly convention and publishes two journals: *Communication Studies* (six issues per year) and the *Journal of Communication Pedagogy* (one open-access volume per year).

CSCA's mission is to unite and educate people with both an affinity to the central region of the United States and a scholarly interest in all areas of communication for promotion of their mutual goals and advancement of their field.

CSCA strives to provide:

1. Sustained mentoring from senior to junior scholars.
2. Ongoing facilitation of networking across the discipline of communication.
3. Annual honors and awards for outstanding service, teaching, and scholarship.
4. Nationally recognized outlets showcasing excellent scholarship for both consumers and producers (via the journal and the annual convention).
5. Regular opportunities to share innovative teaching practices that influence life-long learning.
6. Advancement of public, institutional, and interpersonal discourse that supports traditionally marginalized people within and beyond the conference.
7. Advancement of policies that support traditionally marginalized people and aim to achieve inclusivity and equity.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

We support excellence in Communication-related scholarship, pedagogy, and service (NCA Strategic Objective Statement 1.1) by providing honors and awards for outstanding service, teaching, and scholarship and nationally recognized outlets showcasing excellent scholarship via our journals and convention.

We enhance member access, engagement, and sense of ownership in the association (NCA Strategic Objective Statement 1.2) by providing ongoing facilitation of networking across the discipline of communication.

CSCA promotes communication's value (NCA Strategic Plan Goal 2):

We enhance public awareness and understanding about the value of the discipline (NCA Strategic Objective Statement 2.1) by providing regular opportunities to share innovative practices that influence life-long learning.

CSCA embraces and enacts inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (NCA Strategic Plan Goal 3):

We provide the tools for members to value and promote inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access within all disciplinary spaces and societal practices (NCA Strategic Objective Statement 3.1) by advancing public, institutional, and interpersonal discourse that supports traditionally marginalized people within and beyond the conference.

We promote and advocate for inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access in the field of Communication (NCA Strategic Objective Statement 3.3) by advancing policies that support traditionally marginalized people and aim to achieve inclusivity and equity.

CSCA cultivates a thriving and responsive organization (NCA Strategic Plan Goal 4):

We nurture and support a membership and volunteer leadership that are energetic, collaborative, and engaged (NCA Strategic Objective Statement 4.1) by providing sustained mentoring from senior to junior scholars.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [CSCA NCA Affiliate Renewal Supporting Documents.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Central States Communication Association](#)

Communication Association of Eurasian Researchers (CAER)

Rationale

"CAER's affiliation with NCA creates mutual benefits for both organizations. As a reliable partner, CAER consistently delivers innovative programming at NCA conventions, with sessions covering a broad spectrum of communication topics—rhetoric, political communication, health, crisis communication, public relations, media studies, and more. This diverse range of scholarship introduces fresh perspectives that enrich conversations crucial to NCA's mission.

With hundreds of millions residing in post-socialist countries, their experiences are often overlooked in mainstream communication scholarship. CAER tackles this issue of muted and excluded voices by advocating for the inclusion of these unique perspectives. By bringing the experiences of Eastern Europe and Central Asia to the forefront, CAER cultivates greater diversity and equity within the field. This not only enriches the scholarly discourse but also aligns with NCA's mission to promote inclusive, global communication research, ultimately strengthening the association's impact and reach. NCA conventions have also been instrumental in CAER's growth, providing a platform to expand its community and advance projects. For example, CAER's two-book edited project with Rowman & Littlefield (2021; 2022) included many works first presented at NCA meetings. This collaboration not only strengthened CAER but also provided NCA members with opportunities to forge international partnerships and expand their academic horizons.

Looking ahead, CAER remains committed to uplifting the NCA community. At the upcoming convention, CAER will host a panel on truth-telling across national contexts, reflecting the need for NCA to engage globally. By fostering internationalization, CAER helps NCA stay relevant in an increasingly interconnected world."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"The Communication Association of Eurasian Researchers (CAER) aligns closely with the vision, mission, and strategic goals of the National Communication Association (NCA).

Goal 1: CAER empowers scholars studying the communication contexts of post-socialist countries by showcasing their work at NCA Convention meetings. By highlighting the vital research generated from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, CAER not only enhances the knowledge base within the field but also contributes to the growth and enrichment of the entire discipline of communication.

Goal 2: The transition to democracy in the post-socialist region has been long and often challenging. CAER underscores the essential role of communication in democratic processes, thereby reinforcing the significance of communication in fostering meaningful societal change.

Goal 3: With hundreds of millions residing in post-socialist countries, their experiences are rarely addressed within mainstream communication scholarship. CAER addresses this issue of muted and excluded voices by advocating for the inclusion of these perspectives, thereby fostering diversity and equity within the field.

Goal 4: CAER contributes to cultivating a thriving and responsive organization by engaging scholars from diverse backgrounds and promoting collaborative research. By fostering an environment of shared knowledge and reflexive practices, CAER strengthens the NCA's commitment to inclusive, informed, and impactful communication scholarship.

In summary, CAER aligns with NCA's vision and mission, and strengthens NCA's strategic plan to foster a better world through communication and ensures that its community continues to grow in depth, diversity, and impact."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [CAER.NCA_2024Attachment_0.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Communication Association of Eurasian Researchers](#)

Cross Examination Debate Association

Rationale

"The Cross Examination Debate Association continues to be relevant to the National Communication Association because communication it showcases how college forensics is an intellectually rigorous enterprise. In doing so, CEDA benefits communication departments throughout the country by raising the profile of the department on campus from public service and competitive outcomes. Since the sophists, debate and argumentation has been essential to the study of rhetoric. Given that NCA houses many organizations that prioritize the study of rhetoric, it follows that CEDA supplements the NCA's mission. CEDA and NCA will mutually benefit by renewing their partnership because CEDA showcases research from emerging scholars with experience in debate and argumentation. Many communication professionals have presented research at NCA in the past at timeslots designated to our organization. Collaborations via panels and paper presentations have improved this research and led to

publication in journals such as Contemporary Argumentation and Debate and Argumentation and Advocacy. Furthermore, CEDA's NCA panels have historically welcomed undergraduate research. Many undergraduate attendees have gone on to attend graduate school in communication studies and become members of the discipline."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"CEDA aligns with the NCA's priorities. CEDA's participation at NCA creates conditions to support and empower members by providing members a platform for research related to competitive policy debate. CEDA members spend the academic school year researching arguments for competitions. This labor often goes unrewarded because it does not translate to curriculum vitae lines. The NCA conference is essential to improving the graduate school and career opportunities of our members. CEDA supports excellence in communication scholarship. Research at our NCA panels have gone on to be published in Contemporary Argumentation and Debate and Argumentation and Advocacy. Partnership with NCA enhances member access by giving graduate students and debate professionals an opportunity to be a part of the broader communication discipline. Because of scheduling constraints due to debate competitions, the NCA annual conference is the most-attended academic conference among our members. It is the only conference we design the schedule around to ensure our ability to attend. CEDA's members promote communication's value and enhance public awareness of communication through public debate events on campus (e.g, campus debates, presidential debate watch parties) and by bringing attention to the communication department when team's experience competitive success. Recent research developed from NCA collaborations showcases CEDA's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Recent CEDA panels at NCA have focused on how immutable characteristics such as gender and race influence the perceived persuasiveness of debate speakers. These conversations have informed recent issues in CAD and A&A regarding how to enhance meaningful black participation in debate."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [CEDA NCA Docs Merge.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Cross Examination Debate Association](#)

Eastern Communication Association

Rationale

The Eastern Communication Association and NCA benefit from a partnership because we serve the same members and have similar goals and missions. ECA is the oldest professional communication association, and it promotes research and teaching in communication studies.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

ECA and NCA's strategic priorities align in an extraordinary way. Both organizations strive to advance communication scholarship, teaching and practice. Both organizations are concerned with membership needs, especially supporting and empowering members and supporting the volunteers that make the organization work. NCA and ECA are highly concerned with and have made DEI a priority and both are committed to advancing the discipline through public policy and publicity.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [ECA Constitution Mission Board Officers 2024 for NCA Renewal \(1\).pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Eastern Communication Association](#)

Institute of General Semantics

Rationale

We would like to renew our affiliation because a significant portion of our membership, more so our leadership, are communication scholars, and general semantics has a long history of association with the field, and especially NCA. Our emphasis is on language and symbolic communication, with strong links to relational communication, systems theory, and media ecology. Many of our key concepts have been integrated into basic communication theory, and our journal, ETC, has long been an outlet for communication scholarship.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

The IGS provides opportunities for communication scholars to publish, present papers at our in-person and online symposiums, and enrich their teaching and scholarship through seminars and lectures. We include communication scholarship beyond the specific general semantics discipline. One of the major contributions of general semantics has been to education regarding stereotyping and prejudice, as well as peace and justice studies.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [IGS NCA renewal.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Institute of General Semantics](#)

International Chinese Communication Association

Rationale

International Chinese Communication Association (formerly known as Chinese Communication Association) is a nonprofit professional and academic organization registered and headquartered in the United States. Founded in 1990, ICCA is the oldest international professional society aiming to promote, enhance, and facilitate scholarly activities and exchanges on Chinese communication, which is broadly defined to embrace any aspect of communication studies concerning Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, the global Chinese diaspora, and Chinese influence overseas.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"As the International Chinese Communication Association (ICCA), we share the National Communication Association's (NCA) commitment to advancing communication scholarship, teaching, and practice to foster a better world. Our organization, founded in 1990 and headquartered in the United States, is the oldest international professional society dedicated to promoting and facilitating scholarly activities related to Chinese communication. Our focus extends to all aspects of communication studies concerning Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, the global Chinese diaspora, and Chinese influence overseas.

Alignment with NCA Strategic Priorities:

Supporting Excellence in Scholarship and Service: ICCA fosters a collaborative environment that supports high-quality research, teaching, and service in the field of Chinese communication. By hosting conferences, publishing journals, and encouraging scholarly exchanges, we empower our members to excel in their professional pursuits.

Promoting Communication's Value: ICCA emphasizes the global significance of communication in understanding and addressing complex issues. Our work highlights the role of Chinese communication in challenging existing structures and fostering meaningful change both within Chinese communities and globally.

Embracing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access: We are committed to promoting inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access within our organization and the broader field of communication. By supporting scholars from diverse backgrounds and ensuring broad representation in our activities, we contribute to a more inclusive and equitable scholarly community.

Cultivating a Thriving Organization: ICCA is dedicated to maintaining a vibrant and responsive organization. We actively engage our members and leadership in reflexive governance and decision-making processes, ensuring that our initiatives align with the evolving needs of our community."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [ICCA documents.pdf \(natcom.org\)](https://natcom.org/documents/ICCA_documents.pdf)
2. Website: [International Chinese Communication Association](https://www.icca-international.org/)

International Forensics Association

Rationale

The International Forensics Association (IFA) seeks to renew its affiliate status with NCA. IFA promotes the pedagogy and practice of collegiate forensics (speech and debate) among U.S. colleges and universities, while creating opportunities to foster international competition among institutions of higher education around the globe. IFA works to achieve this goal by hosting an international tournament and conference each year at a location chosen by the membership (e.g., since the pandemic locations have included Tokyo, Japan; Dublin, Ireland; and, in 2025, the tournament will be held in Incheon, South Korea. These events have regularly hosted more than 25 colleges and universities and include more than 200 college students and forensics educators, which means that this event is larger than some of the most prominent forensics events held within the United States each year.

By affiliating with NCA, IFA is able to maintain strong connections with the disciplinary home of the forensics activities it promotes, engage in collaborative dialogue among scholars and educators whose work focuses on forensics through panel discussions hosted at the conference, and to foster participatory decision-making by its members through the business meeting held at NCA each year.

By affiliating with IFA, NCA contributes to the vitality of a subset of its membership committed to the practice of forensics, especially when coupled with the benefits of international and intercultural practice and experience. Likewise, NCA's affiliation with IFA helps further enhance its commitment to international networks and impact.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

The International Forensics Association aligns with NCA's strategic priorities in a number of ways as it works to bolster forensic education (Speech and Debate), train students to enhance their public speaking skills and promote the activity of forensic competition in countries other than the United States. First, it creates conditions to support and empower members by offering a platform through its annual conference and tournament for its members (who are also almost uniformly NCA members as well) to collaborate on improving their effectiveness as forensics educators specifically and as communication educators more generally, while also supporting the efforts of those same members to grow their professional networks nationally and internationally. Second, by hosting its conference and tournament in a different international location each year, IFA helps promote communication's value internationally to both educators and college students from within the US and around the globe who participate in speech and debate activities. This international presence coupled with scholarship and other funds to support participation by new schools, as well as schools with limited resources also align with NCA's commitment to embrace and enact inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Microsoft Word - IFA Constitution - Updated 3.10.24.docx \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [International Forensics Association](#)

International Listening Association

Rationale

"This is a renewal of our affiliation with NCA

Mission Statement: The International Listening Association's mission is to make listening an integral part of global culture and society by uniting, engaging, and inspiring international groups, organizations, and individuals who promote its practice, training, and research in varied fields and contexts."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

The International Listening Association is in total alignment with the NCA Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [NCA Affiliation Information for the International Listening Association \(natcom.org\)](https://natcom.org)
2. Website: [International Listening Association](https://www.internationallisteningassociation.org)

Japan-U.S. Communication Association

Rationale

Now that the NCA has grown to be globally embracing academic association revolving around communication-related issues across the world, both NCA and JUCA can benefit from their mutual relationship by offering and providing outcomes of academic outcomes deriving from the scholars' efforts. The “same” political, social, and cultural event that takes place in our today’s world can be interpreted in many different ways through the various cultural lenses brought in to account for them, and the interpretations can be “broadcast” instantaneously via social media that have become prevalent means of information transmission across the world. By maintaining and further developing the relationships between our two organizations, we can continue to provide various and maybe competing perspectives from which the global issues can be viewed.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"Our constitution states, ""JUCA wishes to provide a forum for innovative study approaches to understanding indigenous Japanese communication phenomena, as well as understanding the beliefs, attitudes, and misunderstandings of U.S. citizens about Japanese people, traditions, and culture, and vice versa.""

The Japanese people's communication practices have been viewed by their US and more widely Western observers as not only different but strange and peculiar. Because of the diversity between the US and Japanese social practices and underlying philosophies, the people on both sides have so much to learn from one another. Only by viewing what is different from our own daily cultural practices, can we learn the uniqueness, effectiveness, and sometimes problems that our own communication may have. U.S. and Japan are a good example of that pairing. We believe that the continuing presence of JUCA as an affiliate of NCA is in good alignment of all the goals, and in particular Goal 3 of the NCA's 2023-2027: Embrace and Enact Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [JUCA supporting document for affiliation renewal.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Japan-U.S. Communication Association](#)

Kenneth Burke Society

Rationale

"NCA and the Kenneth Burke Society have had a long relationship that continues to inspire young and seasoned scholars to research and write about traditional and emergent challenges in communication—from rhetorical theory and its history to racial and social justice rhetorics and the range and complexity of identification, from rhetorics of argument to prospects for social, cultural, and political change.

The Kenneth Burke Society and KB special interest group have organized a panel or panels, held planning meetings, and awarded best paper awards at annual NCA meetings. This activity has also directly benefitted the KB Society's support of research via KB Journal, which regularly publishes work that has grown out of projects first presented at NCA.

Kenneth Burke's own writings and the research that builds on his work continues to influence the Communication discipline across a broad range of scholarly activity. Recent books include *Kenneth Burke in the Classroom* edited by Ann George and M. Elizabeth Weiser and *Kenneth Burke's Rhetoric of Identification: Lessons in Reading, Writing, and Living* by Tilly Warnock. Each year, KB Journal updates its bibliographies (*Works by Burke* and *Works about Burke*) with several hundred entries from journals important in Communication, new dissertation projects, and, on occasion, multimedia projects or films."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"The Kenneth Burke Society and its activities align with the NCA strategic priorities expressed in its current strategic plan:

Create Conditions to Support and Empower Members

I mention above how KBS panels at NCA support members and, importantly, create new ways for young scholars to engage with NCA and KBS. Many papers that were first presented at NCA were later published in KB Journal. Others have led to chapters in collections or articles in journals elsewhere. KB Journal has been an inviting professional network for young scholars since its beginnings in 1984. In May 2025, the KBS Triennial Conference at Clemson will be largely planned and presented by graduate students beginning their careers in communication and rhetoric. We see KBS as primarily a network for promoting collaboration and thoughtful and timely research across disciplines and even borders.

Promote Communication's Value

The two major projects of the KB Society, its journal and its conferences, have always focused explicitly on communication's value and relevance in understanding the wicked problems of the day, including continuing threats of fascistic rhetoric around the world, the nature and impact of interrelational identities and identifications, and the ongoing challenges of social change. We believe that Kenneth Burke was one of the twentieth century's great proponents of the value of theories of communication for understanding human relations, so continuing to promote this value is central to the KBS mission.

Embrace and Enact Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access

In addition to providing venues for presenting research on these issues at its conferences and in KB Journal, the KB Society is actively diversifying its editorial board and reviewers it calls upon. We have adopted the ""Position Statement on Citation Justice in Rhetoric, Composition, and Writing Studies"" to guide these efforts (see https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZhQpNUv_kmJILPUIQFBpLcZzwN6BGIMi4F7vH0lt9U8/edit#heading=h.kftnmev164q4). We are asking graduate students to lead this effort, with support from senior scholars and KBS members when requested. We have also internationalized the KB Society to create more opportunities to reap the

benefits of diversification. The incoming President of KBS hails from Belgium, and KBS officers are developing a grant proposal for the Rockefeller Foundation's program in Bellagio to support collaborative solutions to large-scale human challenges, such as ways to improve the lives of underserved and vulnerable populations.

Cultivate a Thriving and Responsive Organization

The KB Society is nearing its fortieth anniversary as a non-profit organization. For a fairly small organization like KBS, it is a continual challenge to bring new scholars on board, especially so when all of the work is voluntary. I mentioned above our efforts to support graduate students in leading this effort. Both the incoming president and I can reach a broad range of emergent scholars, beginning with the large PhD program I direct at Clemson in Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design, and Kris Rutten's leadership in the Rhetoric Society of Europe, which annually hosts professional development workshops for graduate students. Our next step will be to formally engage these students in formal governance of the organization in ways not unlike WPA-GO (the graduate student organization that supports/advises the Council of Writing Program Administrators).

We believe that all of these KBS goals reflect and support the strategic goals of NCA."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [NCA Renwal Application-KB Society 2024.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Kenneth Burke Society](#)

Korean American Communication Association

Rationale

The Korean American Communication Association (KACA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, fosters scholarly and social connections among Korean communication scholars and students across North America and beyond. We warmly invite all researchers interested in Korean, Korean-American, and Asian culture communication topics to exchange ideas and conduct research with us. Since its founding in 1978, KACA has blossomed into a leading organization serving Korean communication scholars, boasting approximately 550 members globally. The National Communication Association (NCA) has played a vital role as a platform for KACA to facilitate academic exchange in the communication field. KACA and NCA share aligned missions and visions, with NCA's core mission dedicated to advancing communication scholarship, teaching, and practice to enhance our world.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

NCA's key strategic plans for 2023-2027, which center on supporting members, promoting communication's value, embracing inclusivity, and fostering a thriving organization, harmonize perfectly with KACA's own strategic aims. KACA is dedicated to serving as a central hub for Korean scholars and those interested in communication within Korea and broader Asian contexts, offering vital support to enable their success in the North American landscape. Additionally, KACA champions inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access both within its own organization and the broader communication field. KACA actively facilitates scholarly exchange and showcases the importance and value of communication across these areas, particularly through diverse research presentations and panel discussions at NCA conferences. By diligently pursuing these goals, KACA is confident in its ability to make meaningful contributions to the wider communication field while upholding the shared values with NCA.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [NCA_KACA_Affiliation.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Korean-American Communication Association](#)

Media Ecology Association

Rationale

The media ecology association is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the study, research, criticism, and application of media ecology in educational, industry, political, civic, social, cultural, and artistic contexts. The association pursues open and interdisciplinary exchange of ideas, information, and research among the Association's members and the larger community. Scholars in the MEA offer critical insight into the diversity of mediating forms and their implications for communication environments writ broad. Collaboration between the NCA and MEA has yielded beneficial publications in the history of rhetoric, communication education, and communication professions (primarily in broadcast, technology, and gaming).

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

The broad definition of media as environments and environments as media demonstrates aligns work produced by MEA scholars with the NCA's goals of understand how communication transforms the social, economic, and political lives of public actors in a media saturated world. By promoting the value of studying communication as form and content, the MEA promotes research into the diverse forms of communication that cultivate communal wellbeing among diverse members and make life meaningful. Given the MEA's responsive approach to emerging technologies and their implications for how public actors engage one another, the organization advocates for and promotes public awareness about the conditions and constraints of new forms of communication and advocates for preserving a diverse communication ecosystem.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Media Ecology Association - Goals of the MEA \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Media Ecology Association](#)

National Federation of High School, Debate, & Theatre Association

Rationale

"A partnership between the NFHS and NCA offers significant mutual benefits, rooted in the importance of effective communication within educational and extracurricular activities. For the NFHS, the collaboration would provide access to communication resources and expertise, enhancing the quality of communication education within high school performing arts programs. This could lead to improved student outcomes in leadership, teamwork, and public speaking which are skills critical in performing arts and general educational development.

From the NCA's perspective, partnering with the NFHS expands their influence within secondary education, allowing them to promote the significance of communication studies at a foundational level. By integrating communication training into high school programs, the NCA would help students recognize the value of communication skills early on, aligning with their mission to advance the communication discipline.

This partnership holds relevance and significance to the communication discipline by demonstrating the application of communication principles in real-world settings. It fosters a broader understanding of communication's role in leadership, collaboration, and conflict resolution, which are skills essential for students' personal and professional development. This collaboration supports both organizations' goals of preparing students for success in a variety of life endeavors."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"The NFHS aligns closely with the NCA's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 by supporting several of the NCA's key goals and objectives. One major alignment lies in fostering communication research and education. The NFHS promotes educational activities across high school performing arts, where communication skills are essential for leadership, teamwork, and collaboration. This directly supports Goal 2 of the NCA plan, which focuses on enhancing communication teaching and learning. Through this partnership, NFHS can integrate communication competencies into its programs, aligning with NCA's objective to support curricular development and advocate for communication education.

Additionally, the NFHS partnership complements the NCA's Goal 3 of disseminating knowledge about communication. NFHS's vast network of educators and NFHSLearn presents a valuable platform to translate and apply communication research in real-world settings such as sportsmanship, conflict resolution, and public speaking. This collaboration could extend NCA's reach in promoting public engagement with communication research.

Lastly, NFHS's commitment to advancing extracurricular and leadership skills in high school students supports Goal 4, which emphasizes professional development for communication scholars and educators. By collaborating, both organizations can foster environments where communication professionals contribute to educational excellence, career advancement, and inclusive, positive workspaces. This alignment reinforces the relevance of communication education in enhancing student development and societal well-being."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: https://www.natcom.org/sites/default/files/2023-24-nfhs-handbook_w-cover-compressed.pdf
2. Website: [National Federation of High School Speech, Debate, & Theatre Association](#)

National Forensic Association

Rationale

The National Forensic Association (NFA) is an educational, non-profit organization who uses our dual aims of forensic competition and scholarly Communication research to bring students into the National Communication Association (NCA) and support the career goals of our faculty and graduate assistant coaches.

NFA hosts the National Tournament, publishes the National Forensic Journal, and has a selection of programs at the annual National Communication Association Convention. Our membership meets bi-annually at the National Tournament and the National Communication Association Convention. As a competitive endeavor, Forensics is not major specific – we welcome students from all disciplines and introduce them to Communication research and the value of pursuing graduate credentials and publications in Communication. Our involvement with NCA, and the annual convention, is a vital part of expanding the Communication discipline to potential graduate students who might not otherwise pursue a degree in the field. Many distinguished scholars of NCA can be found on NFA tabulation sheets.

Our coaches are often non-tenured and early-career tenure track faculty. For our coaches who teach, NFA's affiliation with NCA means access to research support, mentors and venues for publication that open paths to career advancement that they might not otherwise have the time to access.

NFA produces the research, the students and the desire to learn and do more for the Communication discipline, and we are appreciative to NCA for providing a crucial, credible scholarly community for our members.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"The strategic plan of the National Communication Association is directly aligned with the goals and practices of the National Forensic Association:

1. Create conditions to support and empower members – our affiliation with NCA is central. Besides publishing the National Forensic Journal, members produce research for submission to NCA. We welcome academics at all career levels and uphold ethical original research standards and mentor students in best research practices.
2. Promote Communication's value – NFA features academically diverse competition and students are introduced to the value of Communication. Graduate coaches report that Forensics was their pathway to a career in Communication. The National Tournament brings our membership to new campuses and we work closely with administrators who learn of the value of our work as we bring them new audiences.
3. Embrace and enact inclusion, diversity and access - NFA centers accessibility and our diverse membership as a core value. Competitively, we have normalized content warnings, quiet rooms, open-door policy, live closed-captions, food insecurity support, limited mobility accommodations and other forms of access that should not be so rare in Forensics. Further, as researchers, we assess and disseminate the findings surrounding these policies.
4. Cultivate a thriving and responsive organization – NFA actively supports our graduate and early-career coaches with an eye to the future. Our current committee chairs and members are pulled from a variety of programs, current students, and alumni who excel in their fields to ensure we add breadth and depth to the voices that advise our future planning. "

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Book1 \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [National Forensic Association](#)

National States Advisory Council

Rationale

In certain ways (historically and presently), state associations provide the "ground game" of the field of communication and rhetorical studies for teaching, scholarship, and service. At and with the NCA, it is important to have a visible venue for participants in state associations to communicate and collaborate about the management, successes, and challenges of state associations. State associations reflect the variety of approaches within our field across the USA while also reflecting the common ground of embracing the study and practice of human communication in proactive ways. In certain ways, NSAC keeps the importance of state associations visible through its important affiliation with NCA.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

With a big picture focus on collaboration and communication across state associations, NSAC aligns with all four of the strategic goals of the NCA. For teaching, scholarship, and service, new folks in our field have opportunities to "learn the ropes" of presenting, networking, etc. at state conventions. Established teachers/scholars can find opportunities to mentor such folks through state associations. State associations are an important part of the public relations of our overall academic field. NSAC consistently seeks to bring the voices of state associations to the table for collaborative conversations. In certain ways, NSAC keeps the importance of state associations visible through its important affiliation with NCA.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [\(As amended, November 10, 1979, February 1, 1988, November 20, 1994 and June 1, 1996\)](#)
[\(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [National States Advisory Council](#)

New York State Communication Association

Rationale

The New York State Communication Association is an organization of faculty, students, and professionals in communication who are dedicated to studying, improving, and applying the principles and practices of communication to all walks of life. As such, it shares NCA's ideal 'that aims to advance communication as a discipline through research, teaching, and practice,' thus would mutually benefit from a partnership.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

As shown in the attached supporting document "NYSCA Forward Code of Conduct," NYSCA aligns with GOAL 1-CREATE CONDITIONS TO SUPPORT AND EMPOWER MEMBERS and GOAL 3-EMBRACE AND ENACT INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESS of NCA's Strategic Plan 2023-2027. The mission of NYSCA to "to encourage human communication scholarship and education in New York State, to serve the interests of the members of the Association, to foster student interest in the academic and applied fields of communication, to nourish a community of students, scholars, and practitioners, to promote cross disciplinary connections, and to promote close relations with other educational organizations in the field of communication" aligns with GOAL 2-PROMOTE COMMUNICATION'S VALUE and GOAL 4-CULTIVATE A THRIVING AND RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION of NCA's Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [NCA NYSCA Affiliation Renewal Documents.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [New York State Communication Association](#)

Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide

Rationale

"PPDD engages a broad diversity of individuals and organizations to spearhead a multi-associational, multi-disciplinary partnership among scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to make significant contributions in closing the digital divide and addressing the many other challenges and opportunities presented by the digital age. PPDD reaches across disciplinary boundaries and beyond academia to various other disciplines and groups in the U.S. and abroad who share interests, methods, and goals and want to work with PPDD to build on that common ground to find solutions to these pressing societal concerns. These are achieved through conferences, research collaborations and community involvement.

In recent years, the scope of PPDD's focus has moved beyond just access to information and communication technology to the usage and development of those technologies. That expansion of focus has seen its members examine related divides, such as the divide in terms of access, usage and creation of Artificial Intelligence. As such, PPDD's historical and contemporary role as an affiliate organization fits with NCA's statement on the digital divide:

"We urge our members to take an active role in increasing awareness of the Digital Divide through research, education, incorporating material on this problem into courses, through community consultation and education, and by advocating for appropriate policies at all levels of government, as well as supporting the production and distribution of open source software, as well as continued education on using said software" (from the NCA Credo for Net Neutrality, Free and Responsible Use of Electronic Communication Networks and the digital divide)."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"Having PPDD as an affiliate organization satisfies GOAL 1. In addition to promoting communication scholarship, pedagogy and service, PPDD's interdisciplinary nature brings in a variety of scholars and practitioners in other fields – from sociology to instructional technology – who might not normally attend NCA. Finally, PPDD promotes ethical research.

GOAL 2 is also achieved as the organization has been at the forefront of many contemporary changes in the function and effects of communication technology. Where once PPDD focused on the access to communication technology, the organization has evolved into looking at other related divides affected areas from education to commerce, such as the Artificial Intelligence Divide. This evolution positions PPDD to speak to public and private policy changes that insure equity in technological access and usage.

GOAL 3 is addressed through the various panels and papers presented at the NCA conference. The topics have directly related to diversity, equity and access (DEA), and the presenters (many of whom come from other countries or otherwise marginalized groups). Bringing those outside perspectives to the conference enhance the awareness of the issues the informing DEA initiatives the association engage it.

Finally, GOAL 4 is achieved through PPDD's work outside the association. For example, PPDD has sponsored multiple conferences on the digital divide in venues such as Seattle and Washington, DC. Attendees have included key Internet founders such as Vint Cerf.

As can be seen, the inclusion of the Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide aligns with NCA's Strategic Plan."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [PPDD--Articles of Incorporation.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide](#)

Religious Communication Association

Rationale

"The Religious Communication Association continues to protect and promote the same goods as the National Communication Association.

1. RCA has a scholarly and professional interest in the communication discipline, as evidenced by its mission statement.
2. RCA is an independent, legally incorporated nonprofit organization with the state of Pennsylvania; it has a formal organizational structure as described in its bylaws; its voting membership consists primarily of persons associated with communication departments in educational institutions; its purpose is to advance a particular segment of the discipline of communication, specifically, religious communication; RCA has been in existence since 1974.
3. RCA monitors, protects, and ensures high quality in the means and products of its communication with members, as is evidenced by the web site and its monitoring by its web curator, its newsletter, its listserv, and its regular coordination of activities among its members and with the National Communication Association, as well as through its yearly conference on the day prior to the formal start of regular NCA conference programming.
4. Both NCA and RCA have benefited from past affiliation. Almost all RCA members are also NCA members, RCA works to participate with NCA in its various endeavors, such as the abstracts project for the centennial celebration, and RCA works deliberately and carefully to integrate its members' efforts with NCA and seeks joint sponsorships with other NCA affiliates and NCA divisions. RCA benefits from programming opportunities/convention slots from NCA. Affiliation will continue to benefit both NCA and RCA.
5. RCA does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation, age, disability, or marital status (see governing documents)."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"RCA is an academic society founded in 1973 for scholars, teachers, students, clergy, journalists, and others who share an interest in religious speech, rhetoric, media, and performance. The association is nonsectarian and provides a setting for professionals of various faiths, or no faith, to study problems of communication and religion. Through its annual conferences and quarterly Journal of Communication and Religion, the association fosters significant scholarship and respectful dialogue that reflects the diverse beliefs, subject matter concerns, methodologies, and professions of RCA members. We support ""excellence in communication-related scholarship, pedagogy, and service, enhance member access, engagement, and sense of ownership in the association, and we maintain ethical standards for research, teaching, and service,"" and we have elected to our leadership positions members of under-represented groups to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. We also support and enact all the goals listed in the document, but space prevents more words here (CREATE CONDITIONS TO SUPPORT AND EMPOWER MEMBERS, PROMOTE THE VALUE OF COMMUNICATION, EMBRACE AND ENACT INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESS, and CULTIVATE A THRIVING AND RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION). We can add more as needed."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Mission Statement Officers Governing Documents RCA for NCA 9 3 24.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Religious Communication Association](#)

Rhetoric Society of America

Rationale

A partnership between RSA and NCA seems quite logical. Many members of RSA are also members of NCA, and consider both when thinking about conferencing, service, and publication. Collaborative affiliation amplifies the impact of each of our initiatives across the field of Communication, broadly, and Rhetoric, specifically.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"RSA and NCA's strategic goals are closely aligned, marked particularly by a shared vision for the future of rhetorical and communication studies, a desire to strengthen the field, and a commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. We are also both committed to providing exceptional support to members and evolving our respective organizations."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [NCA Affiliate Renewal 2024_RSA.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Rhetoric Society of America](#)

Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

Last affiliated with NCA in 2014

Rationale

"NCA and SSSI will mutually benefit from continued affiliation in at least two ways. The first is academic. Symbolic interactionism was once described in an NCA journal as providing "one of the broadest overviews of the role of communication in society" (Littlejohn, 1977, Quarterly Journal of Speech). The SSSI remains primarily concerned with the roles that interaction and communication play in everyday life. Continuing our affiliation will ensure that symbolic interactionism continues to demonstrate its relevance to the field of communication, particularly at the NCA annual conference and through journal publications. The second is organizational. Professional organizations in many academic fields have experienced shrinking memberships over the last decade or more. This is due in part to the slashing of public funds for full-time tenure-based professors and the growing expenses related to travel for academic meetings. The SSSI actively seeks ways to support academics,

particularly those with limited or without research/travel budgets. The affiliation can provide members of both organizations with access to other scholars doing similar research and therefore to integrate their work into the larger body of communication scholarship. At the same time, the affiliation promotes engagement across disciplinary boundaries to the extent that, while there are many symbolic interactionists in communications departments/schools, there are also many in sociology and other disciplines."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"Just as the NCA represents the scholarly study of communication, the SSSI is founded on the similar belief that the study of interaction provides significant insights into social processes and social structures. As such, both organizations seek to enhance public knowledge regarding the foundational role that communication plays in society and everyday life. As demonstrated in its mission statement, the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction's (SSSI) mission aligns closely with the National Communication Association's (NCA) strategic goals. Both organizations share a focus on supporting members. SSSI fosters an international community for scholarly exchange, aligning with NCA's support of excellence in scholarship, pedagogy, and service. Relatedly and aligned with the NCA's goal to cultivate a responsive and thriving organizational environment, the SSSI similarly prioritizes member engagement and growth through various communication

channels, including annual meetings both in North America and Europe, periodic workshops on research methods, regular publication of research articles in the SSSI's journal, and news via a semi-annual newsletter and various web/social media platforms. Both organizations also firmly support and seek to further enhance equity, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI). The SSSI's commitment to removing barriers to scholarly inclusion and excellence is embodied in a formal EDI committee."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [SSSI Mission and List of Officers 2024 Sept.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. [SSSI Constitution by-laws \[ratified October 2023\].pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
3. Website: [Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction](#)

South African Communication Association

Last affiliated with NCA in 2014

Rationale

"A partnership between the South African Communication Association (SACOMM) and the National Communication Association (NCA) would yield mutual benefits, fostering growth and development for both organisations and the broader field of Communication Studies.

Partnering with the NCA, a globally recognised leader in the field, would elevate SACOMM's international profile and expand its reach beyond Southern Africa. The partnership would also provide SACOMM members access to NCA's vast resources, including publications, conferences, and professional development opportunities, fostering knowledge exchange and skill enhancement.

On the other hand, collaborating with SACOMM would broaden NCA's global network, facilitating connections with communication scholars and practitioners in Southern Africa. The partnership would enrich NCA's discourse by incorporating diverse perspectives and insights from Southern Africa, promoting a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of communication.

This partnership would create a platform for communication scholars and practitioners from different regions to collaborate, share knowledge, and address global communication challenges. It would also enrich the discipline by incorporating diverse perspectives and experiences from other parts of the world, promoting a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of communication."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"SACOMM's focus on research, professional development, inclusivity, and community building aligns seamlessly with NCA's strategic priorities. SACOMM's work in fostering communication research and collaboration directly supports NCA's goals of empowering members and promoting the discipline's value. By providing platforms for knowledge exchange and showcasing the impact of communication research, both organisations contribute to the advancement of the field and its recognition in addressing societal challenges.

SACOMM's recognition of linguistic diversity and its efforts to facilitate communication practice across Southern Africa resonates with NCA's focus on inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access. Both organisations strive to create welcoming environments that value diverse perspectives and experiences. Furthermore, SACOMM's emphasis on member engagement and collaboration aligns with NCA's goal of cultivating a thriving and responsive organisation."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [SACOMM NCA supporting documents.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [SACOMM](#)

Southern States Communication Association

Rationale

"Consistent with the goals of NCA, our purpose is to promote the study, teaching, and application of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication. Our shared disciplinary area is essential to understanding and improving the human condition and thus NCA and SSCA are strongly committed to civic and social responsibility. Both non-profit organizations seek to foster a better world through systematic inquiry into communication and disseminating the results of scholarly activity through professional development opportunities as well as our instruction and advocacy. The Southern States Communication Association and the National Communication Association share a long history of collaborative activities, and future collaborations will continue to benefit both organizations.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"The strategic priorities of SSCA include building and maintaining a community of communication scholars through advancing teaching, research and disciplinary contribution. We seek to build our community through expanding relationships with constituencies including faculty, students, and community members. Moreover, we seek to develop and implement resources and activities likely to attract and include a wide range of constituencies including HBCUs and marginalized groups within university communities. It is our objective to promote the value of communication inquiry to all the constituencies we touch.

Taken together, pursuing mutually similar strategic objectives will provide both organizations with the opportunity to explore mutually beneficial activities, thereby ensuring our intellectual vitality and relevance both now and in the future."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [SSCA Constitution Revised April 2024 and affiliation information for NCA.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Southern States Communication Association](#)

The Association for Chinese Communication Studies

Rationale

"Rationale for Affiliation with National Communication Association

The Association for Chinese Communication Studies (ACCS) is an affiliate of the National Communication Association (NCA) holding consistent missions, similar value foundations, and coherent and complementary research ideas and inquiry. The NCA is a not-for-profit corporation with the mission to “advance communication as the discipline that studies all forms, modes, media, and consequences of communication through humanistic, social scientific, and aesthetic inquiry” (NCA Mission, 2024). Like the NCA, the ACCS provides a platform for scholars, students, and practitioners who are interested in any form of Chinese communication studies to exchange ideas, critically examine messages, meaning creation, and influence among communicators, discuss and develop collaborative programs, and promote Chinese communication through research, pedagogy, and service. Like the NCA, the ACCS values diversity, inclusion, and access among our membership internationally.

Besides shared missions and expanded opportunities for dialogue and collaboration, the ACCS generates mutual benefit with NCA by bringing together scholars with interest in a specific communication discipline—Chinese communication studies. To co-produce knowledge and promote shared missions among scholars and communities, the spirit of the ACCS affiliation supports and enables the pursuit of professionalism, creativity, service, and reach across/among/between international communities within the larger communication discipline.

The ACCS serves as an especially complementary unit for the NCA. Through its unique position to connect with scholars of Chinese communication studies, the ACCS helps the NCA maintain a community of specialized scholars. In return, ACCS gains from NCA, strengthening the scholarly community of inclusive and international values."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"ACCS Alignment with the NCA’s Strategic Priorities

The Association for Chinese Communication Studies (ACCS) aligns closely with the National Communication Association’s (NCA) vision, mission, and 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

Supporting and Empowering Members (Goal 1)

The ACCS provides a platform and community for scholars, students, and practitioners to exchange ideas, collaborate, and promote Chinese communication through research and teaching, directly aligning with the NCA’s goals of engaging members and supporting excellence in scholarship.

Promoting Communication’s Value (Goal 2)

By advancing and broadening the subfield of Chinese communication studies, the ACCS aligns with the NCA’s mission to highlight communication’s role in challenging structures and fostering meaningful change. The ACCS’s advocacy efforts resonate with the NCA’s objectives to promote communication-informed policies.

Embracing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (Goal 3)

The ACCS is an ethnically inclusive non-profit that advocates for equity within its membership and global communication associations. It promotes diversity and does not discriminate, aligning with NCA’s goals to foster an inclusive environment. The strategic goals of ACCS strive to build a community among global scholars in the field of Chinese Communication Studies.

Cultivating a Thriving Organization (Goal 4)

The ACCS supports the NCA's goals by promoting member collaboration, aiding young scholars' career development, enhancing academic exchanges, and organizing international/intercultural communication events. Its community-building efforts align with NCA's objective of fostering an engaged, collaborative network.

In summary, the ACCS's mission and activities align with and advance the NCA's strategic goals, contributing to the broader communication discipline while promoting inclusivity, engagement, and academic excellence."

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Colorado Secretary of State - Summary \(natcom.org\)](https://natcom.org)
2. Website: [Association for Chinese Communication Studies](https://www.accs.org)

Urban Communication Foundation

Rationale

"Communication is central to understanding the continuing global expansion of the urban landscape and requires the fusion of research that stresses the understanding of dynamic communication patterns, the humane design of public space, thoughtful architectural design, and the creation of regulatory processes both benevolent and realistic.

The mission of The Urban Communication Foundation is to:

- 1) support through grants research that enhances society's understanding of urban communication patterns;
- 2) encourage through conferences and symposia collaboration between scholars, urban planners, and policymakers;
- 3) promote through publications research strategies and
- 4) recognize through awards and noteworthy scholarship that encourages and fuses urban practice and study."

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

"Goal 1 - We support and promote scholarship across the many divisions of NCA

Goal 2 - We support and engage in public policy discussions to emphasize the role of communication in the public sphere

Goal 3 - We support and award individuals and organizations that "EMBRACE AND ENACT INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESS

Goal 4 - We promote the work of NCA through our publications, media outreach, and participation in a variety of national and international events"

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [UCFNCA \(natcom.org\)](http://natcom.org)
2. Website: [Urban Communication Foundation](#)

Western States Communication Association

Rationale

As a regional affiliate of the National Communication Association, the Western States Communication Association (WSCA) is an inclusive and supportive community of people who study, teach, and practice communication. Our mission and values align closely with the purpose of NCA in desiring to advance communication scholarship, teaching and practice for a better world.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

WSCA affirms the mission of NCA and is in specific, strategic alignment in creating environments that support and empower members to advance the communication discipline through: Excellence in communication pedagogy, research and service (Goal 1); fostering the value of communication as a change-agent (Goal 2); embodying and embracing diversity, equity and access as an organization (Goal 3); and cultivating a thriving, member-focused organization (Goal 4).

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [Untitled \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [Western States Communication Association](#)

World Communication Association

Last affiliated with NCA in 2014

Rationale

Renewing a partnership between the World Communication Association (WCA) and the National Communication Association (NCA) will mutually benefit both organizations by leveraging their complementary strengths and shared goals. WCA's global network of communication professionals and educators aligns with NCA's mission to advance communication scholarship, teaching, and practice. This partnership enhances research collaboration, promotes intercultural dialogue, and fosters innovative communication practices across diverse settings. By joining forces, WCA and NCA support and empower their members through expanded access to resources, conferences, and professional development opportunities. The combined efforts of WCA and NCA create a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable field, promoting ethical standards and advocating for communication-informed policies. Together, WCA and NCA can continue to work together to contribute to a better world through enhanced communication practices and scholarship.

Alignment of Strategic Priorities

The World Communication Association (WCA) aligns with the National Communication Association's (NCA) mission goals through its commitment to advancing communication research, teaching, and practice on a global scale. WCA's emphasis on fostering peace and understanding through reasoned international and intercultural communication mirrors NCA's goal of promoting communication's value in challenging existing structures and fostering meaningful change. WCA's dedication to free, responsible, and effective communication supports NCA's strategic objective of maintaining ethical standards in research, teaching, and service. Moreover, WCA's focus on linking professionals across national and cultural boundaries aligns with NCA's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access within the discipline. By creating a global network of communication scholars and practitioners, WCA enhances member access, engagement, and sense of ownership in the association, which resonates with NCA's objective to support and empower its members. The continued partnership between WCA and NCA will further mutual goals, creating conditions for collaborative growth and advancing the discipline's public and institutional impact. This alignment strengthens both organizations' efforts to cultivate a thriving and responsive communication community dedicated to making a positive difference in the world.

Supporting Documents

1. Link: [NCA Affiliation Renewal Attachments_WCA.pdf \(natcom.org\)](#)
2. Website: [WCA](#)