



*94th Annual Convention*  
Southern States Communication Association  
Norfolk, Virginia

Identity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Business Meeting Notes  
*Friday, April 4, 2025; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.; Room: Fusion*

1. Call to Order

2. Reports

- A. Chair Report: Chandra Maldonado, Campbell University
- B. First Vice Chair Report: Joshua Miller, Free Agent (Presented by Chandra Maldonado)

\*2025 Convention Program

- Submissions – (18 Total Submissions: 12 papers and 5 panels)
- Accepted 18 submissions, 5 of which were panels or roundtables
- Slots – 12, including business meeting

- C. Second Vice Chair Report: Rico Self, North Carolina State University (Presented by Chandra Maldonado)

- IISJ Planning for 96<sup>th</sup> Annual SSCA Convention: Birmingham, AL; April 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Planner: Rico Self, *North Carolina State University*)
- Background of location: Site of SSCA inaugural convention in 1930. Site is also known for its role in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Theme: Comm-AI-nity: Conventions in the Age of Intelligence
- Projected slots for division: Assuming no changes the anticipated number is 12 slots (one for business meeting)
- We will recognize the Top Faculty Paper and Top Student Paper.

3. Discussion/Action Items:

- A. Report from SSCA Executive Council Meetings: Considering name change for DEI Committee. Conversations around how this will affect other committees/divisions with similar focuses. Conversation is ongoing
- B. Awards

- Top Graduate Student Paper: “Framing Activism: DisCrit Perspectives on Whiteness, Futurity, and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a Capital Crawl Image”  
**\*\*Shawna Shepard**, *North Carolina State University*
- Top Faculty Paper: “Rejecting the (Empty) Rhetoric of Plurality: A multidisciplinary analysis of the US House speakership transition from McCarthy to Johnson”  
**\*\*Joshua Guitar**, *Kean University*  
**\*\*Mansi Brat**, *Kean University*  
**\*\*Brianna DeJesus**, *Kean University*

C. Election of new IISJ Officer (Second Vice Chair)

- Shawna Shepard (*North Carolina State University*) elected to serve as 2027 planner for the IISJ. Email: [ssheper@ncsu.edu](mailto:ssheper@ncsu.edu)

4. Announcements

5. Adjournment