

Southern States Communication Association
96th Annual Convention | “COMM-AI-NITY: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence”
April 8-12, 2026 | Birmingham, AL

Community College Division

Vice Chair/Program Planner: Samantha Chapuseaux, samantha.chapuseaux@fgc.edu

The Community College Division invites submissions for SSCA’s 96th Annual Conference, “COMM-AI-NITY: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.” Held in Birmingham, Alabama—a city with a growing presence in innovation and education—the 2026 conference theme invites us to consider how artificial intelligence is transforming communication. As AI tools increasingly shape how we teach, learn, and engage, faculty are navigating new opportunities and challenges in the classroom and beyond. Papers and panels that explore how AI is influencing instructional practices, student interactions, and campus communication are welcome. We also encourage submissions that critically examine the pedagogical, ethical, and relational dimensions of teaching and learning in an AI-mediated environment. We seek submissions that explore the conference theme relevant to the mission of community college education, within the broad contexts of academics, professionalism, extracurricular involvement, and assessment/accreditation. Current employment at a community college is not a prerequisite for submitting or attending panels. Several ideas for panels include – *but are certainly not limited to* – topics focusing on:

- Collaboration: Reaching Across the Aisle
 - Interdisciplinary/Interdepartmental
 - Faculty Senate
 - Campus Committees
- Teaching Difficult Topics
 - CRT/DEI
 - Team-based assignments
- Course Policies
 - Ethics/AI
 - Attendance Policies
- Changes in Higher Education
 - General Education Requirement
 - Course Formats
 - Dual Credit
 - State Legislation of DEI
- Great Ideas For Teaching Students (GIFTS)

All submissions must include a cover/proposal page, which includes:

- (1) Program title of the submission (avoiding subtitles if possible)
- (2) Submitter/organizer’s name & educational affiliation
- (3) Mailing address
- (4) Phone number
- (5) Email address
- (6) Special requests (special room, A/V equipment with rationale/explanation); submitters should plan to furnish their own audio/video if possible as availability at the conference is not guaranteed.

Additionally, please indicate by including on the cover/proposal page if the author is a “Student” and/or if a “Debut” submission. Please note, the program planner(s) may elect to create separate/individual panels from select Manuscript and/or GIFTS submissions if necessary.

Competitive Paper Submissions: All paper submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>. For the paper to be assigned for review, please follow all of the instructions on the convention site. For the purposes of anonymous review, please omit all author-identifying information from the manuscript. All papers submitted will be considered for the Division’s Top Paper Award. For student papers, indicate “STUDENT” on the first page of the manuscript, and indicate “Student Paper” during the submission process. The Division’s Top Student Paper will be submitted for consideration for the SSCA Bostrom Young Scholar Award.

Panel or Roundtable Submissions: Panels and roundtables are submitted through the same process as competitive papers; just be sure to select the appropriate submission type when prompted. The submitter will be able to add other panelists as “authors” after the initial submission. Upload a copy of the panel, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists’ individual topics; upload this at the “Upload Paper” prompt.

GIFTS (Great Ideas For Teaching Students) Submissions: The Community College division seeks teaching ideas for communication courses – Interpersonal, Organizational, Small Group, Media, Gender, not just Public Speaking. All ideas must be original to the presenter; not duplicate any other previously published work, including your own previously published work; and have been implemented in the classroom. G.I.F.T.S submissions should be uploaded in the “Competitive Papers” section of the XCD portal with “G.I.F.T.S.” denoted on the title page and at the top of the document.

GIFTS submissions are structured into individual sections as follows:

- (1) Title
- (2) Course/Program: The applicable course(s) for which the GIFTS was conducted
- (3) Abstract: 100 words
- (4) Rationale: A brief explanation
- (5) Directions/Method: A description of the process/procedures
- (6) Results/Debrief: A discussion of the results, findings, or benefits
- (7) References (if applicable)
- (8) Appendix (if applicable): FYI handouts, lists, or examples

Submissions must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Monday, September 15, 2025. Go to the submission site by going to the conference website (<https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member>) and clicking the submission link. First time visitors to the site will need to create an account. Return visitors will need to make sure to use the same email address that they used to establish the account. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly advised. Any submission not meeting the above requirements will not be accepted for review. If you have additional questions, please contact the Division Vice-Chair and Planner **Samantha Chapuseaux**, samantha.chapuseaux@fgc.edu.

Anonymous Review: All papers submitted should follow standard procedures for removing any information that identifies the author and/or the institution within the paper and within any document metadata. Divisions reserve the right to reject any papers not following these standards.

Audio-Visual Support: To maintain affordable conference rates, audio-visual support is extremely limited. It must be requested only if needed with supporting rationale and should be part of the submission to the division planner. Requests will be considered and are not guaranteed. An alternative may be a shareable QR code that audience members can access from their own personal devices.

Submission Protocol: Submissions to SSCA must be original research that has not been published or presented at another regional, national, or international conference. Also, the same paper or panel should not be submitted to more than one division. Divisions reserve the right to reject any submissions not following these standards.

Student Papers: For a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student awards or recognition, the author or authors of the paper must all be students at the time the paper is submitted. A paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member, for instance, will not be classified as a student paper.