Instructional Development Division

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The Instructional Development Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2026 Conference to be held in Birmingham, AL. We especially welcome submissions that address the convention theme "Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence."

The Division welcomes **competitive papers, panels, round tables, and posters**. The submissions should address topics such as, but not limited to, the following ideas: pedagogical decisions concerning AI; the good, the bad, and the ugly about AI use; campus discussions about AI use in the classroom; activities developed using AI and the associated outcomes; perceptions of AI use in the classroom; efficiencies using AI and/or replacements because of AI use in the classroom; resistance to AI use in instructional settings; AI use in contexts outside the classroom; AI use in public presentations; AI replacing/supporting faculty and advisors; administrative use of AI in the classroom; community benefits of using AI in the classroom; accepting and navigating the reality of AI in the classroom; what it means to be the 'human in the loop' as AI becomes more standard. ***Of particular interest are poster submissions from faculty on AI use in the classroom***. You are also encouraged to think outside the box when submitting ideas that focus on AI use, such as exploring the boundaries of AI use, the losses academics face, and other ideas as they pertain to AI use and instruction.

Competitive Paper Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member.

Competitive papers are completed research projects dealing with a substantive critical, methodological, or theoretical contribution. Submissions will consist of **1)** the paper *with all identifying information removed;* **2) a separate cover page** with the paper title, author(s)' names, institutional affiliation(s), contact information, and an abstract of no more than 200 words.

A. <u>Anonymous Review</u>: All competitive 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 and interest groups reserve the right to reject any papers not following these standards.

B. <u>Student Papers</u>: 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. In order for a submission to be considered a student paper and to be eligible for student awards or recognition, all authors of the paper must 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.

C. <u>Debut Papers</u>: A "debut paper" is one submitted by an author or authors who are presenting at SSCA for the first time. Please indicate if the submission is a "debut paper" during the submission process.

Panel Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member.

Panel proposals are for a slate of papers focused on a central topic or theme. This type of session typically has between 3-5 presentations. Submissions must include 1) a panel title; 2) an overall panel rationale (no more than 200 words); **and** 3) the following information about **EACH** presentation on the panel: a) the presentation title; b) the presentation author(s), with their institutional affiliation(s) and contact information; **and** c) the presentation abstract (no more than 200 words per abstract). Compile the information into a single document and submit in the "paper upload option" on the XCD platform.

A best practice for all divisions is to submit panel proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

Round Table Submissions: All submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member.

Round table proposals bring together a group of scholars to discuss a topic or theme. This type of session typically has between 4-7 presentations. Submissions must include 1) a session title; 2) an overall session rationale (no more than 200 words); **and** 3) a list of participants' names with their institutional affiliations and contact information. Compile the information into a single document and submit in the "paper upload option" on the XCD platform.

A best practice for all divisions is to submit round table proposals with diverse participants comprised of individuals representing different institutions, and where possible and relevant, potential new members.

Poster Submissions:
Posters grant faculty and students an immersive platform that facilitates organic discussion about their recent assignments and projects. Faculty and students from multiple Divisions and Interest Groups will present their work in this format. Extended abstract poster submissions are designed for projects that are fully conceptualized but prior to, or in the early stages, of analysis, interpretation, data collection, and critique/review at the time of submission. For accepted submissions, *it is expected that the completed project will be presented as a poster* at the conference. Literature reviews and research project submissions in an extended abstract format are welcome.

Extended abstracts are not eligible for the division's top paper awards.

All poster submissions must be electronically submitted to the SSCA convention site at https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member. Please select the "Poster" option when submitting extended abstracts for poster presentation.

We welcome three (3) types of poster submissions, two for students and one for faculty.

A. **Extended Abstract: Literature Review Poster Submission:** Please select the "Poster" option when submitting extended abstracts for poster presentations. This submission should include 1) a title page with a "poster" indication provided; 2) a detailed summary that provides evidence of a fully rationalized research area (topic choice) and description of methods and data to be analyzed; and 3) the reference

pages. Papers must be double-spaced in 12-point font and formatted with standard one-inch margins. Papers should be no longer than 500-700 words (excluding references) and should avoid sexist and racist language. The identity of the author(s) or institution(s) should not appear anywhere in the paper.

B. **Extended Abstract: Research Study Poster Submission**: This submission should include 1) a title page with a "poster" indication provided; 2) a detailed summary that provides evidence of a fully rationalized research idea and description of methods and data to be analyzed; and 3) the reference pages. Papers must be double-spaced in 12-point font and formatted with standard one-inch margins. Papers should be no longer than 500-700 words (excluding references) and should avoid sexist and racist language. The identity of the author(s) or institution(s) should not appear anywhere in the paper.

C. **Assignment: Faculty Use of AI in the Classroom Poster Submission:** This submission should include 1) a title page with a "poster" indication provided; 2) a detailed summary with clear instructions of an assignment used in the classroom; and 3) a reference page (if applicable). Papers must be double-spaced in 12-point font and formatted with standard one-inch margins. Papers should be no longer than 500-700 words (excluding references) and should avoid sexist and racist language. The identity of the author(s) or institution(s) should not appear anywhere in the paper.

Award Nominations

The Instructional Development Division of SSCA also seeks nominations for the **Hendrix Distinguished Article Award**. Eligible articles will herald significant contributions in communication theory, research, and/or practice in the Instructional Communication area of the discipline. In honor of Dr. Katherine Grace Hendrix, this award recognizes works advancing underserved population research and communication scholarship addressing inequities in learning sectors.

Peer reviewed articles emerging from communication and related disciplines within a two-year period of the annual conference meeting cycle, based on copyright date, are eligible. The article author must be a current member of the Southern States Communication Association. For articles with multiple authors, at least one author must be a current SSCA member.

To apply, send a letter of nomination, including a brief rationale and an explanation of the work's significance. Please include a PDF of the article nominated. Self-nominations are encouraged.

Nominations and materials must be received by **December 5, 2025 at 11:59 PM EST**. Only electronic submissions of nomination letters and articles will be accepted. Please **email nominations and materials to** Instructional Development Division chair, **Colleen Mestayer,** at **cmestayer@tntech.edu.**

Submissions will be reviewed by a committee of SSCA Instructional Development Division members. The winner will be announced at the annual IDD Business Meeting, and the winner will present as part of an SSCA IDD spotlight panel the following year.

Pertinent to All Submissions for Conference Presentation

Deadlines: The deadline for submissions to **ALL** divisions and interest groups is **September 15th, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time**. Go to the paper 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 or Interest Group Vice-Chair and Planner, Elizabeth Hanson Smith at **ehansonsmith@yahoo.com**

Audio-Visual Support: Audio-visual equipment should be requested **ONLY** if it is essential to a presentation. Most submissions do not require A/V equipment and there will be limited availability during the conference. Your judiciousness is appreciated in considering whether a request is appropriate for your presentation. **Due to prohibitive cost, A/V requests will be considered but may not be met**. The final program will indicate which sessions have A/V capability. 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 and interest groups reserve the right to reject any submissions not following these standards.