

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

Call for Papers
Public Relations Division

VP & Program Planner: Dr. Breann Murphy, bmurphy5@jsu.edu

The Public Relations Division invites submissions for competitive selection for the SSCA 2026 Conference to be held in Birmingham, Alabama. We especially welcome submissions that address the convention theme, “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.”

Papers must include a 75-100 word abstract and be no longer than 25 pages (excluding tables and references). Papers should be written to make sure the author’s identity remains hidden for the purpose of anonymous review. All submissions should also include a separate attachment that includes a cover page with the names, affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of all authors. Students submitting papers should indicate “Student” status on the paper’s header and indicate if the student is an undergraduate or graduate student.

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 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. Undergraduate and graduate student papers are also strongly encouraged. For student papers, please 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. Please upload a copy of the panel, listing the description/rationale, panelists, and, if appropriate, panelists’ individual topics; upload this at the “Upload Paper” prompt. Panels and roundtables of a variety of topics and backgrounds are highly encouraged, including those whose panelists represent industry professionals or potential new SSCA and/or public relations division members. Panels including panelists representing a variety of institutions are also encouraged to submit.

Submissions must be submitted online no later than **11:59 p.m. PST on Monday, September 15, 2025**. You can visit 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, Dr. Breann Murphy at bmurphy5@jsu.edu.

Additional Information Pertinent to All Calls Includes the Following:

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 papers are submitted. A paper co-authored by a student and a faculty member, for instance, will not be classified as a student paper.