

**Southern States Communication Association**  
**Annual Convention | “Communicating Our Future”**  
**April 12-16, 2023 | St. Petersburg, FL**

**Community College Division**

**Vice Chair & Program Planner: Jeff Sorrels, [jdsorrels@collin.edu](mailto:jdsorrels@collin.edu)**

The Community College Division invites paper and panel proposals for competitive selection. We especially welcome works that address the convention theme, “Communicating Our Future.” Submissions should be 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:

- Unique features of Community College
  - Transfer Students
  - Dual Credit
  - Nontraditional Students
  - Career & Technical Education
- Online Course Design and Best Practices
- Basic Courses
- Community Engagement
- 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/fax number(s)
- (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.

Competitive papers must adhere to current APA guidelines and not exceed 25 pages (excluding tables & references). 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.

GIFTS submissions are teaching ideas for any/all courses – Interpersonal, Organizational, Small Group, Media, Gender, etc. – 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 should be one document structured into individual sections as follows:

- (1) Title

- (2) Course/Program: The applicable course(s) for which the GIFTS was conducted
- (3) Abstract: less than 200 words
- (4) Rationale: A brief explanation/reason for the activity, research question, hypothesis, etc.
- (5) Directions/Method: A description of the process, procedures, etc.
- (6) Results/Debrief: A discussion of the results, findings, benefits, etc.
- (7) References (if applicable)
- (8) Appendix (if applicable): FYI handouts, lists, examples, etc.

**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. Please check the for division/interest groups' calls for specific length and formatting requirements.

Anonymous Review: 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.

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

Debut Papers: A "debut paper" is one submitted by an author or authors who are presenting at SSCA for the first time.

**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). All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted 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), 3) a list of participants' names with their institutional affiliations and contact information. All of this should be compiled in a single document and submitted 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.

### **Pertinent to All Submissions**

**Deadlines:** The deadline for submissions to **ALL** divisions and interest groups is **September 16<sup>th</sup>, 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, **Jeff Sorrels**, [jdsorrels@collin.edu](mailto:jdsorrels@collin.edu).

**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.