

SSCA 96th Annual Convention Call for Participation

April 8-12, 2026
Sheraton Birmingham Convention Center
Birmingham, AL

“Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence”

Southern States Communication Association’s 96th conference invites you to Birmingham, Alabama, a city steeped in history and vibrant culture. The Sheraton Birmingham Convention Center will serve as the perfect venue to explore this year’s conference theme: “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.”

This theme blends the ideas of “community” and “AI,” emphasizing the evolving relationship between human and artificial intelligence in shaping communication. It encourages reflection on how communication fosters connection and shared understanding in an era increasingly influenced by advanced technologies. Papers and panels addressing these dynamics are encouraged, as are those exploring the challenges and opportunities of this new frontier.

The 96th Annual SSCA Convention in 2026 will mark the 8th time the conference has been held in Birmingham, Alabama, which holds historical significance as the site of the association's very first convention in 1930. Birmingham offers a unique backdrop for this forward-looking yet grounded theme. Known as the birthplace of the civil rights movement, Birmingham’s legacy of community-building and social change underscores the importance of connection and understanding, making it a fitting location for this gathering.

All divisions and interest groups are encouraged to program at least one panel on the conference theme. Division/interest group co-sponsored panels which provide unique opportunities to reflect on the theme are highly encouraged. Where entire panels are proposed, submitters are encouraged to diversify the institutional affiliation of the panel participants beyond two institutions, and to especially consider opportunities to include colleagues and peers who have not recently or never attended an SSCA conference. Program proposals which do not align with SSCA’s divisional and interest group structure may be submitted directly to the vice president for possible review.

For Division and Interest Group calls, go to <http://www.ssca.net> and the Division (<https://www.ssca.net/divisions>) or Interest Group (<https://www.ssca.net/interest-groups>) pages.

The deadline for all submissions is **September 15, 2025**, at midnight Pacific Time. All submissions will be handled through the conference website: <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member/>

For more information, contact Dr. Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, 1st Vice President and Program Planner, by email at ssca2026@gmail.com or n.punyanunt@ttu.edu We look forward to welcoming you to Birmingham in 2026!